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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Agricultural Conservation Program Service
Commodity Stabilization Service

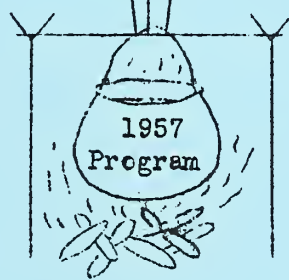
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ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

April 5 - 6, 1956

HOTEL VERMONT
BURLINGTON, VERMONT

State ASC
Committee
and Office

Cooperating
Agricultural
Agencies



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Caledonia
Chittenden
Essex
Franklin
Grand Isle

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Orange
Orleans
Rutland
Washington
Windham
Windsor

REPORT OF ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

Vermont State and County Committeemen, County Office Managers,
County Agents, and Guests

Held at Hotel Vermont, Burlington, Vermont, April 5 - 6, 1956

Foreword

This report presents the talks and committee reports of the 1956 Annual ASC Conference. The two-day conference, through its three working committees, considered the farmer thinking as reported at the recent county program planning meetings and made recommendations which will form the groundwork for the coming months in the program of work of the Vermont Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Office.

The recommendations included in this report are those which were approved by the entire conference. The recommendations relating to the 1957 ACP were reviewed and considered by the Vermont State ASC Committee, in a joint meeting with other agricultural agency representatives at the State level, before they made their recommendations to the Washington Office.

We were pleased that the new Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Paul M. Koger, and Senator George D. Aiken could be with us. Other honored guests included Governor and Mrs. Joseph B. Johnson.

We greatly appreciate the efforts and wholehearted cooperation of all who helped in any way to make our 1956 ASC Conference a success.

State ASC Committee

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman
B. Frank Myott, Vice Chairman
Charles L. Winslow, Sr., Member
J. E. Carrigan, Ex Officio

State ASC Office

A. F. Heald, Administrative Officer
E. W. Blondin, Fieldman
C. B. Doane, Fieldman

CONFERENCE THEME

THE COMMITTEEMAN'S JOB

The farmer committee system recognizes the fact that National Farm Programs dealing directly with farmers must be understood and administered by farmers themselves. We have had about 20 years of experience. It has been proven that the job can be done by the farmer committeemen.

This Annual Conference in Vermont is called to give county committeemen an opportunity to better understand their job and to offer suggestions to the State Committee as to the kind of programs needed in Vermont.

We must accept this assignment and do it well.

PROGRAM

VERMONT ANNUAL ASC CONFERENCE

April 5 - 6, 1956

HOTEL VERMONT, BURLINGTON, VERMONT

April 5, 1956

9:00 a.m. Register, get name tags and banquet tickets
to at Conference Registration Desk in Lobby.
10:00 a.m.

Conference Opened by B. Frank Myott, Presiding

10:00 a.m. Plans and Purpose of Meeting Hugh E. Evans, Chairman,
Introduction of Visitors and Guests State ASC Committee

10:15 a.m. Suggestions from Our Co-Workers
in the Field

Discussion led by A. F. Heald, State
Administrative Officer

Extension Service R. L. Carlson
Chittenden County
Agent

Soil Conservation Service K. W. Danielson
Work Unit
Conservationist

Vermont Forest Service Elwin Leysath
Rutland County Forester

Soil Conservation Districts Robert Slater
Pres., Vermont Assn.
of SCD

Questions and Discussion

11:30 a.m. Current Legislation Senator George D. Aiken

Questions and Discussion

12:30 p.m. Lunch

PROGRAM - April 5, 1956

Hugh E. Evans, Presiding

1:30 p.m.	Plans for State Committee Nominations	B. Frank Myott State Committeeman
1:45 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.	Conference Committee Meetings A. Program Planning Committee B. ACP Program Operations Com- mittee C. Committee on Administrative Problems, including Elections, CCC Activities, Public Relations, and General Administration	Roof Garden Conference Room Apple Orchard

CONFERENCE BANQUET

April 5, 1956

6:30 p.m. --- Main Dining Room

Toastmaster --- Thomas F. Macauley
State Committee Alumnus

PROGRAM

Music

The Jerichords

Awards

The Job of ACP in 1957

Paul M. Koger
Administrator,
ACP Service

PROGRAM - April 6, 1956

Charles L. Winslow, Presiding

9:00 a.m.	The Farm Labor Situation	Merrill Walker State Farm Placement Supervisor, Employ- ment Service
9:20 a.m.	Current Events in Selective Service	Merton Ashton Assistant Director, Vermont Selective Service System
9:30 a.m.	How I Use ACP on My Farm	Edgar Tremblay Farmer Committeeman, Washington County
10:00 a.m.	The Place of Minerals in Conservation Work	Dr. A. R. Midgley Agronomist, UVM
	Questions and Discussion	
10:45 a.m.	Current Events in CSS	Harris W. Soule Northeast Area Director, CSS
11:30 a.m.	New Farm Bill and How It Might Affect Vermont	A. F. Heald State Administrative Officer
12:00 noon	Lunch	

PROGRAM - April 6, 1956

Hugh E. Evans, Presiding

1:15 p.m.	Report of Committee on Program Planning	B. Frank Myott State ASC Committeeman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
	Report of Committee on ACP Program Operations	Hugh E. Evans, Chairman State ASC Committee
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
	Report of Committee on Administrative Problems, including Elections, CCC Activities, Public Relations, and General Administration	Charles L. Winslow State ASC Committeeman
	Discussion - Changes - Adoption	
3:30 p.m.	Nominations for State Committee	B. Frank Myott State ASC Committeeman
4:00 p.m.	Adjourn	

SPECIAL SESSION OF COUNTY OFFICE MANAGERS
AND STATE OFFICE REPRESENTATIVES

April 6, 1956

1:45 p.m.

Opening of Session by Bertha Saunders,
Presiding

Conservation Materials

Irene Abell and
Bertha Saunders

A discussion of use of computation
sheets, purchase orders, contract
material, transfer of materials
from 1956 to 1955, and other items.

Applications for Payment and
Statistical Summary

Marcia Tudhope

A general discussion

Procurement

Marcia Tudhope

A discussion on ordering supplies
from GSA, ordering forms, and
other items

County Office Audits

Madelene Bevins

A review of audit recommendations
by State Office Auditor, and other
items

County Accounts, Reports, Minutes
of Meetings

Bertha Saunders

A discussion of the preparation and
submission of county accounts, sub-
mission of reports to the State
Office, preparation and submission
of minutes of county committee
meetings, and other items.

Incentive Awards

Bertha Saunders

A general discussion

Question-and-Answer Period

This will cover any other subjects
which county office managers may
care to discuss

4:00 p.m.

Adjourn

Conference Committee Assignments

I. PROGRAM PLANNING COMMITTEE

B. Frank Myott, Chairman

Clyde Vance, Vice Chairman*

Almon F. Heald, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS</u>
Addison	Sedgewick Preston	
Bennington	Ball Lyons Everett Lillie	
Caledonia		
Chittenden	Gay Baldwin	
Essex	Elden Hartshorn	Earle Clark
Franklin	Reginald Nichols	
Grand Isle	Jay Haylett	
Lamoille	Howard Kittell	
Orange	Walter Wheatley	
Orleans	Ernest Johnson	
Rutland	George Ridlon	William Corey
Washington	W. J. Bisson	
Windham	David Allen	
Windsor	Matthew Watson	William Stone

*Absent due to illness.

II. ACP PROGRAM OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman

Floyd Weld, Vice Chairman

Edward N. Blondin, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY OFFICE MANAGERS</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS</u>
Addison	Howard Foster	Edla Browne	
Bennington	Clyde Bryant		
Caledonia	Norman Lowe	Mildred Murphy	
Chittenden	Ray Collins		
Essex	C. E. Wright	Mildred Bell	
Franklin	Floyd Weld		R. C. McWilliams
Grand Isle	George Caswell	Grace Cameron	
Lamoille	Arthur Stancliff		
Orange	F. Milo Leighton	Louise Rand	Gordon Farr
Orleans			
Rutland	James Brayton	Bethany French	
Washington	Everett Walbridge		Gordon Butler
Windham	Myron Allen	Mae Carpenter	
Windsor	Carroll Bean		

III. COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATIVE PROBLEMS, INCLUDING ELECTIONS,
CCC ACTIVITIES, PUBLIC RELATIONS, AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

Charles L. Winslow, Chairman

Roy Burroughs, Vice Chairman

Charles B. Doane, Secretary

<u>COUNTY</u>	<u>COUNTY COMMITTEEMEN</u>	<u>COUNTY OFFICE MANAGERS</u>	<u>COUNTY AGENTS</u>
Addison	Wayne Fuller		John Stephenson
Bennington	E. W. Mattison	John DeVito	
Caledonia	Donald Larocque		
Chittenden	Lloyd Button	Dorothy Howard	Robert Carlson
Essex	Ray French		
Franklin	Stuart Newton	Avis Bronson	
Grand Isle	Alan Kinney		
Lamoille	Ray Perkins	Hazel Hoyt	
Orange	Edson Gifford		
Orleans	Henry Dagesse	Patricia Walsh	Roger Whitcomb
Rutland	Roy Burroughs		
Washington	D. Drew Bisbee	Marjorie Leith	
Windham	Robert Gaines		
Windsor	Wesley Young	Betty Dutton	

PLANS AND PURPOSE OF MEETING

Introduction of Visitors and Delegates

by

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman, Vermont State ASC Committee
at the

Annual ASC Conference, Hotel Vermont
Burlington, Vermont -- April 5, 1956

I am once again glad of this opportunity to outline to you folks the plans and purpose of our 1956 Annual ASC Conference. As our program points out, we are meeting to discuss "The Committeeman's Job." This meeting follows up the meetings we have had in each Vermont county to get recommendations from our community committeemen as to the kind of an Agricultural Conservation Program they want for Vermont. At these same meetings we took time to explain to our committeemen the over-all job of ASC committeemen in this State. We got some ideas from them too. So today and tomorrow we will take their ideas, together with the ideas of the county committeemen and technical people, and try to make plans for doing a better job in the coming year.

As I see our goals at this annual conference, we should very carefully review the work given us as State and county committeemen. We should take a look at what has been done and try to improve the way we carry out our assignments in the future.

I have been a farmer committeeman working with this program for many years. I am proud of our accomplishments and hope you are. I believe this farmer committee system is sound and can operate effectively.

Now a few words to our working committees.

For you who are serving on the Program Planning Committee

I hope that you will take a good look at some of the changes that have been brought about, starting with the 1954 program. Make use of the changes that are good, and make recommendations to change those that are not working. Give a lot of weight to the recommendations from your community committeemen, because remember you are representing them and the farmers of your area at this meeting.

A few words to the ACP Program Operations Committee Members

You folks will be going into the details of reporting performance, enrolling farms, training schools, and similar topics. The recommendations which you make can have an important bearing on the future handling of our program. I hope you have prepared for this discussion well and will take an active part in your committee meeting.

To the Members of the Administrative Problems Committee

You should take a good look at the way our county offices are being run, analyze our election procedure and your own county committee meetings,

make suggestions for better supervision, and give us ideas on how our State Office people can be more helpful. You should also take a good look at our assignments, such as CCC activities and the Wool Program. Make recommendations on ways and means of keeping our committeemen better informed on these programs.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as we continue through these two days of conference, give us the best ideas you have and our program is sure to be a success.

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR CO-WORKERS IN THE FIELD

Introduction by A. F. Heald, State Administrative Officer
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

This morning we are happy to have with us some of the boys who help make the ACP click in the field. This year, rather than having the top brass, we agreed to invite the fellows who actually do the work in the field. So today my panel consists of the following: Will each of you please come forward as I call your name?

Robert L. Carlson, Chittenden County Agent
K. W. Danielson, Work Unit Conservationist
Elwin Leysath, Rutland County Forester
Robert Slater, President, Vermont Assn. of Soil
Conservation Districts

The mere fact that these people are here today, and that in the audience there are representatives of the other agricultural agencies in the State, indicates that they are interested and that our relationships are good.

By way of introducing this discussion, I want to point out that we are proud of the record of our ACP program in Vermont. In fact, I am glad to report that in 1954 Vermont's participation in ACP was second highest in the Nation. We had 63 percent of our cropland participating in the program compared to 32 percent nationally. We had 51 percent of our eligible farms participating compared to 20 percent nationally. Although 1954 was an all-time low for participation in the Agricultural Conservation Program in the United States, the above figures indicate that we have been working together here in Vermont to keep a program which is of interest and value to our farmers.

In order to make our work even more effective, we want the panel members this morning to give us ideas which have occurred to them which might make for a better program or for better administration of our programs. I will ask each of the panel members to speak about ten minutes. Then, following their presentations, there will be an opportunity for questions and discussion.

Subscription price, Five Dollars per Annum in Advance.
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SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR CO-WORKERS
IN THE EXTENSION SERVICE

Address by Robert L. Carlson, Chittenden County Agent
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

It is a pleasure for me to have this opportunity to visit with you folks about the job of the County Agent as an ex-officio member of the County ASC Committee as I see it.

Let me first point out that the work of a County Agent is teaching in the broadest sense of the word. We try to teach lessons that will advance the welfare and happiness of people in the County and especially rural people. One of our jobs with the County Committee is to advise, assist and discuss with them Agronomy practices dealing with soils and crops. We can be of most help in this work of policy making. In Chittenden County we have tried to follow this practice and the agent comes to meetings where policy is to be discussed and not to meetings of routine checking, signing of papers, etc.

We carry out a planned Extension program in the County in which there are meetings, tours, farm visits, news releases and radio programs. TV is beginning to come into the program. Often we are called on to speak at meetings of other Agricultural agencies such as Granges and cooperative creamery meetings. We try briefly to explain the ACP program and answer questions about it. Believe it or not, we are asked many, many questions throughout the course of a year.

When we are making individual farm visits and contacts, we explain the practices available through the ACP in our soils and crops program. Lately our work in Farm and Home counselling has led to a discussion of these conservation practices and how they can work into the over-all picture on a farm. The Green Pastures program is one way in which a lot of good educational work has been accomplished. In Chittenden County we have held two farmer-businessmen dinners with "Green Pastures" as the theme of the evening program.

You and I know from the records that the County and State winners are enrolled in the ACP program. In fact, many of them are either County or Community Committeemen.

Our work with non-farmers is done through the channels of mass media such as newspapers, radio programs and talks given at local service clubs. In trying to sum up these notes it seems to me that the County Agent, as ex-officio member of the County ACP Committee, can be of most help and value in policy making and getting out information about the program to folks in the County.

I'd like to close by saying that all of us should be deeply interested in protecting the soil and that soil conservation is everybody's business.

June 1, 1947

Dear Mr. [Name]

I am writing to you in response to your letter of May 28, 1947, regarding the matter of the [Subject]. I am sorry that I cannot give you a more definitive answer at this time, but the situation is somewhat complicated.

The [Subject] is a matter of internal policy, and I am sure you will understand the need for discretion in this regard. I am sure that you will find the information I am able to provide helpful in your own deliberations. I am sure that you will find the information I am able to provide helpful in your own deliberations.

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SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR CO-WORKERS
IN THE SOIL CONSERVATION SERVICE

Address by K. W. Danielson, Work Unit Conservationist
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

We have gone a long way since permanent type practices were first included in the Vermont ACP program in ironing out difficulties and confusion that were bound to occur. There was confusion among the farmers as well as personnel of the responsible Federal and State agencies.

These problems were largely overcome by the mutual understanding of the program of agricultural agencies that developed by meeting together and planning the ACP program for the ensuing year. We, in the field, have a pretty good understanding of the farmer's problems and conservation needs at the county level. We welcome the opportunity of voicing our opinions and making recommendations that are considered to be at the State level.

Greater adherence to job specifications has resulted in much improvement in quality of work. Sometimes farmers balk at what they consider too rigid specifications, but, they are based on sound engineering knowledge.

One of the things that has bothered us in the past is the high mortality of ACP referrals - the number of referrals that never reached the certification stage. This meant a lot of time spent that never produced a profit. Until recent years much of this was probably due to the committeemen's eagerness to sign up farmers -- many that had little or no thought of doing the job. To my knowledge, there has been a big improvement in this respect, but there may still be room for more improvement.

Even though the farmer had every intention of doing the work when he signed up, there are still many uncontrollable factors that result in mortality - money, equipment, illness, change of ownership - to mention a few. In Franklin County 44% reached certification stage in 1955.

That is why the new system - getting prior approvals for OR REQUESTS done by the start of the field season, and taking care of referrals for engineering practices as we go - is so much liked by the W.U.C.

Another of our problems is in not getting enough advance notice before a contractor moves on to a farm. Where district equipment is depended upon for most of the work this is not such a big problem as we know where the equipment is scheduled. When contractors do most of the work, this can be serious. It means that we must have close cooperation with the contractors and be familiar with their schedules. The committeeman can be of much help by reminding the farmer of the fact that a lot of detail goes into designing engineering structures and that sufficient advance notice must be given in order not to hold up the job. In Franklin County we are discussing these problems with the contractors and urging their cooperation.

The Purchase Order Plan was first used in Franklin County last year. Early in the year there were dissatisfied contractors. They thought it was taking too long to get their money. This was remedied as the season progressed so that by the end of the season they were satisfied.

Farmers, naturally, like the Plan very much. They do not have to tie up their money for so long. As the plan becomes better known to farmers, I believe the majority will use it.

The District likes the Plan. Last year was the best they have had in collections. The equipment operators have been instructed to check with the farmer before starting the job to see if he has his purchase order. Being relatively new, many farmers do not know what it is.

The general feeling among Work Unit Conservationists is that the Purchase Order Plan is good but could run smoother. One suggestion was that it might help if the purchase order could be issued immediately after prior approval has been given. In Franklin County, 338 purchase orders were issued in 1955 -- of these 210 were paid. In 1956, 537 have been requested.

When I was asked to participate in this discussion, I thought it advisable to get comments and suggestions from other Work Unit Conservationists. I would like to mention them here:

1. The opinion was unanimous that some of the lesser known and much needed conservation measures were not sufficiently explained. These included such practices as: Stripcropping, tree planting, woodland improvement and stream bank work. They felt that this may be due to a lack of full understanding by committeemen of what these practices are and the benefits from them. Such things as open and tile drainage, ponds and obstruction removal do not have to be sold. The farmer is already sold. The others that were mentioned take some salesmanship. Those that have held tours for committeemen feel that more use of this tool may be beneficial.
2. Tentative approval by the county committee is often confusing to farmers. In Franklin County, there is an explanatory note that goes with it. Perhaps in French communities, if this were written in French, it could be a help. Could it be eliminated for permanent practices?
3. Advance notice of contract equipment moving in to a job seemed to be a wide-spread problem.
4. Getting handbooks out to the farmers before the committeemen make the farm visit to give them a chance to look it over beforehand.
5. Getting 247's out by October 1. This is not a problem in Franklin County but apparently it is in other counties.
6. Having the complete specifications for permanent type practices in the State handbook along with description of the practice.
7. All are in favor of the package deals.
8. A meeting of the county committee, office manager, and other agencies representatives with contractors to explain purchase orders, job specifications and workload.

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR CO-WORKERS
IN THE VERMONT FOREST SERVICE

Address by Elwin Leysath, Rutland County Forester
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

Mr. Heald has asked me to present concisely how the County Forester works with the County ASC Committee, and through them with the Community Committeemen and individual landowners who sign up for either or both of the forestry practices under the ASC program. He has also asked me to discuss how the purchase order plan works in Rutland County and how it might be made to work in the other counties of the State.

First, let's take a look at how the County Forester fits into the overall ACP picture. As you know, he is charged with the supervision and certification of the presently two practices concerning the forestry phase, namely, planting tree seedlings, and timber stand improvement work. He also works with the County Committee on training meetings, planning meetings, and not infrequently acts as secretary at Community Election Meetings, in addition to presenting a program at these times.

As far as actual sign-up goes, there are three general ways this is brought about. The first, and one which accounts for about 90% of the sign-up, is, of course, the general sign-up done by the community committeemen. The second is the sign-up done by the private or consulting foresters who either sign up their clients themselves or see to it that the client signs himself. The last is myself inasmuch as I carry enrollment sheet with me and "push the program" so to speak in my travels throughout the county.

After the landowner is signed up, we County Foresters have a more active part to play in the program. We must approve the work to be done which brings us into closer contact with the landowner and those serving him, if any, such as the Consulting Forester. As soon as the prior approval forms are forwarded to me by the County Committee, I look them over. If I know about the work to be done by reason of either having signed him myself or suggesting that he sign up with the community committeeman, I immediately sign this prior approval sheet and pass it back for action by the County Committee. If it is something I am not familiar with, it is necessary for me to contact the landowner and go over his proposed plans with him, making specific recommendations regarding the work to be done, and outlining work areas.

To lighten my workload in cases where landowners are served by Consulting Foresters, I discuss the work to be done with the consultant involved, leaving the actual work up to their own best judgment, inasmuch as they are as qualified as I am to specify what should be done.

During the program year, I check with the landowners involved so far as I am able, to see how the work is progressing. This frequently results in getting work accomplished which otherwise probably would not be done.

I must inspect completed work to approve payment, and this I try to do along during the year so it will not all pile up at once. This works well as far as the seedling practice goes, but usually the landowners wait until the last minute to do their improvement work unless the work was done by a service crew.

Actually, you can see that my principal point of contact is between the County Committee and the landowner. I do not have too much to do with the community committeemen as such, but I find it pays to know each one individually as they are excellent sources of contact to provide information concerning the community they represent.

Insofar as the forestry practices themselves go, I do not think they can be improved upon, since they are the result of several years of solidification and improvement. Perhaps, it might be in order at this point to mention briefly the need for the establishment of these practices. In respect to forest planting, the recently published "Timber Resources Review" indicates that Vermont has 101,000 acres of land presently in need of planting. It also states that up until 1952, only 29,700 acres of plantation has become established. This gives some idea of the amount of necessary planting we still have facing us if we are to get our idle land into production. Some of this land will, of course, seed in naturally, but the anticipated rate is only six-tenths of one percent per year, which is not very fast.

I think even more important than planting is the improvement of our existing timber resources. In cull trees alone, Vermont forests are currently supporting over two billion, three hundred and fifty million board feet. These trees are contributing no net board foot volume to our timber reserve, and still worse, are taking up space which would support species of higher value and better form. This situation has been brought about by generations of following the practice we foresters know as "creaming," that is, taking the best and leaving the worst. Obviously before too long, unless something is done, forest land will be supporting more culls than usable timber. Besides cull trees, we have acres where better quality trees should be released from the competition of poorer quality trees, or plantations which should be thinned to stimulate faster diameter growth, or plantations and natural stands which should have the crop trees pruned for high quality lumber production.

As I have said before, I think forest planting is very important, but it has been "sold" successfully already. Usually when someone finds out I am a forester, they say, "Oh, you plant trees." So you see, the idea of planting is pretty well entrenched. I know that in dollars or time spent, a landowner will usually get more benefit from improving what he already has on the ground. There is scarcely an acre of Vermont forest land which does not need improvement work of some type done on it.

In respect to incentive payments for improving large woodland acreages, Rutland County approves them at the maximum dollar value, the establishment of which in most cases costs considerably less than the maximum. For instance, if 400 acres was requested, the maximum payment of \$15.00 per acre would come to \$6000.00. This is far beyond the maximum of \$1500 for one landowner. The result is that the 400 acres is approved with the stipulation that in no case will an amount over \$1500.00 be paid. This lets the landowner receive maximum benefit from the funds expended.

I understand some county committees set a maximum amount of acreage beyond which they will not approve. For instance, on a large holding, they will not approve over 100 acres with the idea that at \$15.00 per acre maximum payment, this would amount to \$1500.00. As I said before, as a usual rule, the work to be done costs less than this, and it will result in holding the landowner to 100 acres even if the work costs \$10.00 per acre to do. In this case, the government's cost-share would be one-half of the cost times the acreage, or \$500.00 instead of the \$1500.00 which was set aside. I recommend that these county committees say, in effect, that for the larger acreages they will pay up to \$1500.00 at the rate of one-half the cost regardless of the acreage involved. I believe this will result in more acres of improvement work being done.

It is the duty of the County Forester in approving the work, both before and after, to see that the funds made available are wisely spent. I believe that the real limitation of the work to be done lies in the amount of money or time the landowner feels he can spend. When he signs up for 10 or 20 acres, he is generally thinking not so much of the acreage involved as what it will cost him in time or money. Those owners willing and able to match the Federal aid should not be prevented from doing so by an acreage restriction.

I have also been asked to talk about the purchase order system of payment as it relates to the forestry practices. Under this system, a purchase order, approved by the County Committee, is presented by a landowner to a contractor who then performs the work. This purchase order is then presented to the County Committee by the contractor for direct collection of the Federal cost-share. He then bills the landowner for the balance.

In order for this to be successful, two conditions are necessary. There must be one or more contractors available, and there must also be a sufficient amount of work to make the furnishing of such services worth while. This system does not apply to those who do their own work, and they constitute the bulk of the sign-up.

In Rutland County the purchase order system has worked well. This is the result of a fortunate circumstance. Back in 1952, Richard Rose, a Consulting Forester, and myself held several conferences regarding the need and practicability of organizing a service crew to do timber stand improvement work, and to service the ACP requests for both planting

forest tree seedlings and doing improvement work. Such a crew was organized in 1952 and was already functioning very smoothly with the advent of the purchase order system. This area is served by two consulting firms which maintain service crews. These have continued to be available because of a few large landowners and several absentee owners whose continued interest has furnished the work to support them. This calls for very close cooperation between the Consultant and the County Forester in not only selling the improvement work initially, but also selling the idea of having it done on the purchase order plan by these service crews.

One of these firms does not use the purchase order plan because the forester in charge signs up his clients as their agent, and this would, in effect, amount to his selling his own services to himself.

Right now this system is working well, but it is problematical how long it can continue. This is due directly to the falling off of the volume of work to be done and to the fact that the service crews cannot operate over a 40-mile radius from Rutland due to a prohibitive increase in costs of operation. This work can be stimulated by the institution of the purchase order plan in those counties which do not now have it, and which lie within a 40-mile radius of the City of Rutland. This will include besides Rutland County, parts of Bennington, Addison, and Windsor Counties. A great deal of good can be accomplished through the use of this program, and it is up to us to see that it is put to use.

SUGGESTIONS FROM OUR CO-WORKERS
IN THE SOIL CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

Address by Robert Slater, President, Vermont Association
of Soil Conservation Districts
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

HOW THE DISTRICTS AND THE ACP CAN WORK TOGETHER TO GET
MORE CONSERVATION DONE

Mr. Chairman: In representing the Soil Conservation Districts, I would like to extend their thanks to you for the whole-hearted cooperation of the Services represented at this meeting.

We have been asked for suggestions on how the Districts and the ACP group can work together to get more conservation done. Inasmuch as so much has been accomplished along these lines, it is difficult to offer much of anything new.

It has always been possible to discover the land capabilities of a farm. We of the Districts are wondering if the capabilities of the farmer have been taken into consideration as well.

For instance, we have had farmers in the Districts who attempted to improve 5 acres of pasture when it would have been better judgment if the committeeman had advised handling half as much, as it proved too much of a burden both physically and financially for the farmer.

If the Services could get together on these programs when planned, and when the farm plan is presented at the office, we think it might be helpful to have the supervisors and all committees engaged in the projects meet and check over the recommendations for the farmer. This might tend to eliminate unfinished work projects.

No doubt, you know of instances where the bulldozing work has been completed and the lime ordered through the Committeeman has been spread. The operation comes to a halt until the farmer can get money together for fertilizer, seed and smoothing, with the result in some cases it may get half-completed in time, or never completed at all. If the farmer had attempted half of the program, he would have stood a better chance of completing the project.

The Purchase Order Program does not seem to be too clear to some farmers. They seem reluctant to inquire about the program, thinking it may involve them too heavily. We suggest that when the Committeeman calls on the farmer that he explain this program in detail, so that the farmer may realize what he is able to do financially.

In Windsor County we use the community sign-up system, as we feel that in using this system the farmer and the committeeman come to a better mutual understanding of their practices. Perhaps this would be a help toward completion of farm practices, as the farmers who attend these meetings are actively interested in the programs and seem to carry them through.

Practically every farmer who is a cooperator in the Districts has a folder with a farm plan and a map which has been drawn up by the technicians of the SCS. It has been suggested that the committeeman ask to look at the farm plan in the folder. This would enable him to suggest to the farmer some of the programs that would be most beneficial to him and possibly avoid duplication of effort. It would also familiarize the farmer with his program.

The importance of tree planting in control of our watersheds cannot be stressed too heavily. If this could be recommended by all of the Services more freely, it would be of great benefit to the farmer as well as the State.

The benefits derived from farm ponds have been great, and should be drawn to the attention of every farmer. The farmer should understand the help he could receive from ACP and the ASC to plan and build a farm pond.

In closing, the District Supervisors would like to suggest that the Services get together twice a year--in the spring to check programs presented by the County Committeemen and the SCS Technicians, and again in the fall to check the final results. We feel that this would result in a better understanding for all concerned and eliminate some duplication of technical advice.

It has been a pleasure to be present here today, and in behalf of all the Soil Conservation Districts I would like to impress on you how important it is to better cooperation that you attend any or all of the District meetings possible in your vicinities.

CURRENT LEGISLATION

Address by Senator George D. Aiken
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956*

Aiken Not Sure Farm Bill Can Be Enacted This Year

President Eisenhower will not sign a bad farm bill should Congress pass legislation at this session unfavorable to agriculture.

United States Senator George D. Aiken made this statement yesterday morning to the annual conference of the Vermont State Agriculture Stabilization and Conservation committee at the Hotel Vermont.

Aiken said that he does not know yet whether a farm bill will be passed which will meet the specifications of the Senate and House.

Said Aiken: "In the event that no new farm law is enacted this year, it is likely that appropriations for the Agricultural Conservation Program will be increased.

"There is already authorization to appropriate \$500 million for this purpose. The present appropriation is \$250 million.

Authorized \$1 Billion

"The authorization for the soil bank would amount to over one billion dollars."

Speaking about milk -- "the greatest product of Vermont" -- Aiken said that the output in the country is rising steadily with about a $3\frac{1}{2}$ billion pound increase in the last two years.

Consumption of milk is rising faster than production. During the last two years this has risen about eight billion pounds.

Spread Too Wide

The senator declared that the price spread between the farmer and the consumer of dairy products is too wide.

"In some places in New York State, milk retails for over 28 cents a quart. Farmers and consumers are both resentful," he said.

Aiken said the soil bank program is divided into two parts: "One part -- the acreage reserve -- would apply only to those crops which have received high supports and which now have to reduce their acreage drastically.

The acreage reserve would not benefit Vermont farmers except by keeping the Midwest and South from plunging into dairying and competitive livestock production all over.

* Senator Aiken had no prepared speech. The material above is taken from the Burlington Free Press of April 6, 1956.

"The other part -- called conservation reserve -- would assist farmers in converting to soil building crops and forestry. It would apply to land now producing tame hay as well as other crops.

"It could be of considerable benefit to Vermont farmers as a long-range proposition.

Government to Bear Cost

"The federal government would bear much of the cost of seeding to clover or other soil-building crops.

"No crop could be harvested from the land put in the conservation reserve for a period of three years or the life of the contract which the farmer would make with the federal government.

"This could be for as much as 10 years, or, in the case of cropland to be reforested, for 15 years," Aiken said.

"Annual payment would be made by the government on the land taken out of cropping. This could amount to about 10 percent of the value of the land."

May Cause Trouble

The speaker said, "Disparity of prices between the dairy farmer and consumer can spell a great deal of trouble unless corrected."

Ways to correct this include force as in the case of the Detroit strike and dependency upon the government. Neither of these methods was advocated by Senator Aiken.

He said the best method is collective bargaining between cooperatives and the distributors.

"Co-ops are stronger and in better position to deal now for a fair share of income and earnings. Co-ops and distributors bargaining fairly together can promote efficiency in production, improve service, increase consumption, and raise farm income."

THE JOB OF ACP IN 1957

Address by Paul M. Koger, Administrator, Agricultural
Conservation Program Service, USDA
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 5, 1956

I'm glad to be with you at this meeting. Just being here helps to get better acquainted. I want to get better acquainted with you and your problems, and your ideas for solving those problems.

Your Committee asked me to talk about, "The Job of ACP in 1957." I like that topic. It allows me to talk about both problems and opportunities. Such a discussion will help me as much as I hope it will help you.

As Administrator of the Agricultural Conservation Program Service, I am deeply concerned with our agricultural soil and water resources.

There are nearly two billion acres of land surface in the United States. Only about 400 million acres is cropland available for producing harvested crops. There is little reason to expect that we can expand that cropland base much.

Some 700 million acres of open pasture and range land supplement the cropland. And, in addition, we have about 489 million acres of forest lands.

Those are the acres we depend on for food, fiber and shelter.

Then, there is water. We, as a nation of 166 million people, use about 185 billion gallons a day for industrial purposes, irrigation, and domestic consumption. In 25 years, that usage is expected to double.

Our increasing output --- this abundance we hear so much about --- has been made possible by research education and American ingenuity and know-how, put to work.

Our primary economic and social problem today is to learn how to live with that abundance. The primary physical soil and water problem is to handle these resources in ways that will assure a reserve of production capacity for the time that it is needed.

These are problems. However, I prefer to think of them as opportunities in conservation.

We recognize that a farmer's first interest in Conservation is likely in the value of conservation to him as an individual. Next, possibly, is his pride in having his farm in tip-top shape to turn over to a son or daughter. Or in having it look well cared for, if he expects to sell.

We keep that in mind as we talk to farmers about conservation. But when we talk to farmers, we also keep in mind that conservation accomplished on one farm, and then on several farms, is of benefit

to the community and county. And, in the same way, that this farm-by-farm conservation is of value to the State and Nation.

The job of the Agricultural Conservation Program is to help farmers to do more conservation --- both for themselves and in the public interest --- than they probably could do alone. I don't need to remind you that the policies of the ACP are directed toward conservation in the national interest as well as toward conservation on individual farms.

That the two go together is important.

I say that because one of the biggest conservation opportunities --- or problems, depending on how you look at it --- is the job the ACP has ahead of it throughout the country in the national interest as well as in the farmers' interest. It is my own belief that family welfare on farms, and the economic well-being of the country, are tied directly to the conservation of our soil and water resources.

The way in which farmers handle their soil and water problems is of urgent concern to the entire nation.

This urgent concern is emphasized by the national trend toward fewer people engaged in the production of agricultural raw materials. This means that the protection and improvement of the agricultural resources is in the hands of a decreasing number of farm people.

This urgent concern is emphasized by the fact that some 70 percent of all basic raw materials going into our national economy comes from cropland, pastures and forests.

The urgent concern about agricultural conservation is also emphasized by the prospects for a 200 million population in the next several decades.

The job of ACP is based on the fact that the program and its policies are a recognition of the long-range responsibility of both the public and the farmers for conserving agricultural resources.

In this connection, Assistant Secretary Peterson commented on the ACP the other day. He said, and I quote: "The ACP, as the years progress, will become a larger program as more people who own and operate farm land understand the necessity for conservation -- and that conservation farming is better farming and usually results in more net income. I think that there will be a place for ACP on a continuing basis larger than now. Our objective in ACP is not one of shrinking it, but rather, one of expanding it to advance the agricultural conservation objectives"

That was a quotation from Assistant Secretary Peterson.

With all this in mind, we look forward to a sound continuing Agricultural Conservation Program that will provide --- within its limits --- the kind of cost-sharing assistance that your farmers need, along with other services, to develop soundly and use wisely their soil and water resources.

Some folks say that one of the current problems is the general decline of the past several years in the number of farmers receiving ACP assistance annually. There has been considerable concern expressed over this decline.

You in Vermont have experienced some of this decline. Through 1953 some 84 hundred to 10 thousand farmers in your State received ACP assistance annually. Then, in 1954 the number dropped almost exactly two thousand from '53 to '54. From about 84 hundred to about 64 hundred. In 1955 your participation is up above your 1954.

At the same time, there has been some concern over the general drop in the use of funds allocated for cost-sharing. In Vermont the drop in use was from one million one hundred thousand dollars in 1953 to 714 thousand dollars in 1954. However, your use of funds is up considerably in 1955.

I believe it is more important to be concerned over the possibility of a decline in the amount of conservation accomplished. The drop in the use of funds is more significant than the decline in the annual participation. That's because a dollar buys less conservation today than a few years ago.

We must not try to measure success of conservation under ACP just by the number of farms using cost-sharing or by the portion of allocated funds used. It is not a policy of ACP to spread cost-share money thinly over more farms. More farms participating and more funds used must be accompanied by an increase in the over-all conservation.

But I feel sure you can get more over-all conservation through the ACP by getting more farms into the program and by encouraging farmers already in the program to do more conservation work.

I expect you understand that element of the job ahead for ACP because your estimates for 1955 indicate some progress along this line. Also, I've learned that you are working hard to increase the participation and make higher participation bring greater conservation accomplishment. This means that you're working hard to put your conservation funds to their fullest use.

It must be that you are facing squarely the job of keeping farmers informed of the opportunities and developments in the program. I'd like to know more about such efforts in Vermont. Generally, over the country this is one of the perennial problems of current importance.

Although the ACP is not an educational activity, its success depends on how good an educational job is done to give farmers an adequate understanding of what is needed and how to do it.

It seems you have this well in hand. The reported understanding of ACP opportunities and purposes by Vermont farmers is evidence that your local meetings are timely and that you work closely with other agencies and groups. You have a reputation for getting programs going and pushed along, without delay.

Another problem --- that offers a challenging opportunity --- is the farmers' rate of progress in doing the conservation work they need to do. In the country as a whole, it's much the same ACP story as in Vermont, except for the difference in practices and conditions.

Through the years, your farm people used the Agricultural Conservation Program to make real progress in soil and water conservation on their farms. For example, over the long haul, they improved their grassland agriculture through their use of lime, fertilizer, and land clearing practices. They helped pave the way for progress in producing high quality forage. And they carried out water conservation practices on many acres to improve their management and conservation of water.

What farmers have done is good. However, how much they have done points up the problem of what remains to be done. How much they have done in recent years indicates the rate of progress.

To get an indication of the rate of progress, let's check some of the records to see how extensively Vermont farmers have used the ACP cost-sharing since 1950 to get more conservation established. The records I'll cite are for the five program years 1950 through 1954 or for the four program years 1950 through 1953, depending on the practice.

Some 357 thousand tons of lime were applied under ACP during the period. That was 20 percent of the lime needed during those years, based on the estimates of your State.

During the period, about 33 thousand tons of potash were applied. That was 16 percent of the estimated needs.

The 225 thousand feet of diversions and spreaders made up eight percent of your estimated requirements for this period.

For tree planting, the estimated need was for planting almost 32 thousand acres. However, six percent of the estimated needs were planted.

As for livestock dams, the 612 built with ACP cost-sharing during this period was 41 percent of the dams estimated as needed to be built.

Vermont's estimates for land clearing needed during the four-year period was 40 thousand acres. The land cleared was 48 percent of the estimated need for the same years.

Sod waterways put in amounted to 3.6 percent of the total estimated as needed. And contour stripping done was .2 of one percent of the amount estimated as needed.

And drainage was done on 18 percent of the acres reported as the five-year goal for drainage.

The other practices in the records tell about the same story. And this is much the same story -- more or less, depending on the practice -- for other parts of the country.

These records show -- and you and I know it without the records -- there remains a lot more conservation to be done. The conservation practices Vermont farmers have carried out entirely on their own, or with assistance other than from ACP, could not possibly have made up the difference.

There is always a problem --- particularly at this time of year --- of taking stock of the present and recent programs in searching for ways of improving the new program coming up. Every county is doing this.

There is plenty of time to take another good look at your own county program before deciding exactly what you want to plan for 1957.

See if it's designed to help farmers do the conservation job that remains to be done. This will tell you how your own county is doing and whether your county program is adequately meeting the conservation problems of the farmers in your county.

Let your 1957 program reflect your analysis. In doing this, you will help the farmers in your county.

You may have done this kind of analysis before sending your 1957 program suggestions to the State Committee. If so, it's all to the good.

I'm sure you want your State and county programs to be designed to fully assist farmers in carrying out all the measures they need to carry out on their farms to:

- Protect their farm land from erosion.
- To build up their soil reserves.
- And to protect and improve the source, flow and use of water.

I remind you of these things simply because the policies of the ACP are directed toward these purposes. And because in just a few years our increased population will depend on what we have done to assure a reserve in production capacity.

I know you'll agree that it takes a live-wire organization, in counties as well as in States, to get done all the things that are necessary in the job ahead for ACP.

However, we do know that the States making the greatest strides in ACP are generally those where the State Office works closely with county offices to keep them in touch with all phases of the ACP. And the States making the most progress generally are where county offices are given guidance and leadership by the State offices in tailoring programs to best meet local problems, and to help farmers on those practices where help is most needed.

The National ACP is very flexible. It has to be flexible, to help solve the multitude of soil and water problems around the country. You know and understand this flexibility asset because Vermont has pioneered in certain kinds of leadership along this line.

I mention this because in some parts of the country there are some differences of opinion as to some of the current practices and policies of ACP. For example, some folks would like to return to the programs of several years back.

Here is how I stand on that: I prefer to go forward, not backward. Let's take a good look to see just what is right in the light of existing conditions. I want committeemen to take a good look. And so will we. We'll always be willing to discuss opinions and make adjustments when needed and where possible.

Of course, you know there are a lot of things that can be done without making changes. But, often, these things are not known about, or are not fully understood. It's good that you know this. Your understanding of this has enabled you to make the ACP work for you and your neighbors.

In talking about the job of ACP we must include the Soil Bank and its relation to the ACP.

In ACPS, our only concern with the Soil Bank's Acreage Reserve proposal is in that part of the land going into the Acreage Reserve that would make use of cost-sharing under the ACP.

We in ACPS are primarily concerned with the conservation elements of the Soil Bank's Conservation Reserve proposal. It is likely the Conservation Reserve proposal would be available to all Vermont farmers.

Payments for required conservation practices carried out under the Conservation Reserve program would be limited to establishing and maintaining protective vegetative cover of grass, legumes or trees, and water storage facilities. In addition, cost-sharing under the ACP would be available for other practices.

It is evident that the Soil Bank would not replace the Agricultural Conservation Program. There are a dozen reasons for that. Actually, the Soil Bank would increase the need and opportunity for cost-sharing under the ACP. The Soil Bank and the ACP would complement each other rather than compete. Together they will provide a more adequate solution to many farm problems than would either program alone.

And we must remember that the Soil Bank program, as big and important as it is, would apply only to about one-seventh of our cropland.

It likely would not apply to range, pasture and woodland at all. Consequently, nation-wide a major part of the conservation undertaking will still be the responsibility of the Agricultural Conservation Program.

We are sure that the ACP would be utilized to the fullest extent in protecting and improving the land put into the Acreage Reserve --- and in giving additional protection and improvement to the land put into the Conservation Reserve.

But to get the job done and done well, you county committeemen will have a tremendous responsibility. However, on the basis of your performance in the past, and your leadership in meeting local problems, I know you will do a good job.

Our ACPS staff joins me in saying that we are anxious to be of assistance to you at all times.

And, as I said earlier, I personally welcome this opportunity to take part in your conference. I hope to come again.

THE FARM LABOR SITUATION

Address by Merrill Walker, State Farm Placement
Supervisor, Employment Service
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 6, 1956

During the past year the shortage of experienced, qualified dairy farm workers has increased throughout the State. In the busiest part of the season, June, July and August, we brought in around 800 workers from outside the State. These were Canadian farm hands and our city youth. At one time we had nearly 600 Canadians and about 200 city youths. The Canadians were placed mostly in the northern part of the State, and in Addison County, and the youth in the central and southern parts.

A large number of workers were recruited locally for the apple harvest. We were unable to find enough help for Addison County so about 80 workers were permitted to come in from Canada for the apple harvest in that area. A few were also brought in for a short time to help out in Grand Isle County after the big wind storm.

We were able to recruit enough bean pickers locally to harvest the bean crop. These were mostly school children. It only lasted for a short time and was during their vacation. A large number were recruited locally for the sweet corn harvest in two areas for a short period.

In one area some Canadians were imported for the potato harvest, but in most cases it was done by local help.

The outlook is not encouraging for the coming year. There is going to be more road construction and building this year in Vermont and the wages and hours are more attractive than farmers are able to offer.

DRAFT REGULATIONS

One encouraging factor is the change in the draft regulations. Boys over 26 and fathers are not drafted into the service any longer and the quota has been reduced in the last few months so fewer boys have been taken from the farms.

A large number of farm boys can join the National Guard and are able to train nights, so it doesn't interfere with their farm work. They must join before they are 18 $\frac{1}{2}$ years old in order not to be subject to the draft.

SCHOOL YOUTH

Last year we placed 254 city youths on farms. Most of them were from other states. More agricultural students are placed each year. These boys come in April and May and can stay until late September and are more interested in farm work as it counts on their schooling. These workers are recruited by the Cooperative Farm Personnel Service, through the efforts of Martha Buttrick. They are screened by an interviewer in each school. These workers are insured by the farmer through the Coop. Farmers place their orders through our representatives and if they meet our requirements, boys are assigned to their farms. Our representatives

meet them at the train, take them to the farm and make several visits during the summer to the farm to see that arrangements are satisfactory and both the farmer and the worker are contented. A large number of parents visit their boys at the farm and they have a chance to learn more about farm life. In most instances this is to the advantage of both parties. In most cases these workers are satisfactory and a number of them return to the same farm for several years.

If any of you are interested in these workers, contact our farm placement representative. You can pass that on to other farmers if you think they might be interested in this type of help.

This year we have more orders for early agricultural boys than we will be able to fill, but there will be enough boys for all farmers ordering them for work starting around June 15. Inexperienced boys start at \$40 per month and experienced get more wages. A few girls are placed.

CANADIAN FARM LABOR

As most of you already know, Immigration has ruled Canadian farm workers cannot come in on a permit for year-round work. These workers must get visas to stay here. A large number of these workers and their families have applied for visas and most of them have already obtained them. They were allowed to work here on the farms while they were getting their visas. An appointment was made with the Consulate at Montreal so they were only away from the farm one day or long enough for them to make the trip to Montreal. When these workers get their visas, they are free to work anywhere and can change farms or do other work.

Starting April 1, workers are being brought in for seasonal work only. This is divided into four seasons. First, maple sugaring from March 1 to April 15; second, preparing land and planting from April 15 to June 1; third, haying from June 1 to September 1; and fourth, harvesting and storing of crops from September 1 to November 1.

A farmer having all these operations could bring in a worker March 1 and keep him until November 1. He will be allowed to help with the chores and any other farm work.

Married men are allowed to come in with their families as in the past but must return to Canada not later than November 1 or obtain a visa.

Farmers bringing in these workers who wish to keep them later than November 1 should advise their workers to start to get a visa at once if they want to stay here for year-round work. They will be allowed to stay at work here on the farms while they are obtaining a visa.

The conditions of the agreement have not changed to any extent otherwise. The Vermont State Farm Bureau is the sponsor and it is through their petition for permission to import non-immigrant aliens that these workers are permitted to work on Vermont farms. The \$5 fee will be paid direct to the Farm Bureau secretaries by the farmer who qualifies for such help. One change since last year is that the minimum

wage has been raised to \$30 per week. A survey was made by sending cards to 800 farmers and it was found that \$30 per week was the prevailing wage for single men with room, board and laundry and married men \$40 per week. I have taken more time on this as it is the service I get questioned about most. If you have any questions I will try to answer them.

I want to thank you, Al and all the members of the State and County ASC or ACP for your cooperation in the past and for inviting me to be here today.

STEPS TO TAKE IN GETTING A VISA

1. Canadian Passports

Canadian passport valid for travel to the United States for at least sixty days beyond the date when you expect to enter the United States is required. For those farm workers now in Vermont application forms should be obtained from the nearest Canadian post office or from the Canadian Consulate at 80 Boylston Street, Boston 16, Mass. Application should be completed and returned promptly to the Canadian Consulate at Boston. Passports should not be forwarded to the American Consulate until that office requests them.

2. Birth Certificates

Birth certificates in duplicate for each member of the family applying for immigrant visas or two baptismal certificates or one original and one photostatic copy are required. Write or see the pastor of the church where you were baptized who should certify such baptism is recorded.

3. Marriage Certificates

Marriage certificate in two copies or one original and one photostatic copy.

4. Police Certificate - in duplicate

Contact the nearest detachment of the R.C.M.P. for a police certificate to cover all of your residence in Canada. In addition you require a police certificate in duplicate from the police of each place in the United States where you have lived for six months or more since you were 16 years of age.

5. Evidence of Support

Have your employer prepare an affidavit in which he states that you are employed on his farm; that the work is a steady job and have the affidavit show the salary and other inducements such as housing, milk, etc., together with information as to the size of the farm and its value. Other evidence of support may be required in any individual case.

6. Photographs

Three separate identical unmounted passport photographs, approximately two inches square with a full front view of the face with no hat must be sent to the American Consulate for each applicant including the children. Automatic machine photographs are not acceptable.

7. Immigrant Visa Fees

The immigrant visa fee for each person, regardless of age, is \$25.00 payable on the day of your appointment with the American Consulate.

8. Medical Examination

The American Consulate will mail you instructions at the time you are notified to appear in person at the Consulate for final action on your application. The medical examinations may be taken in Vermont.

9. Mailing Documents to American Consulate

All of the above required documents should be mailed at one time in a large envelope enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the Consulate's reply. Use Canadian postage stamps for the return.

CURRENT EVENTS IN SELECTIVE SERVICE

Address by Merton Ashton, Assistant Director,
Vermont Selective Service System
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 6, 1956

REGISTRATION - The requirements for registration with the Selective Service System remain unchanged, i.e., United States citizens must register within five (5) days after reaching 18 years of age and aliens permanently residing in the United States must register within six (6) months after their entry into the United States.

VULNERABLE AGE GROUPS - The 1955 amendments to the Universal Military Training and Service Act set up the following groups for the selection and induction of registrants:

1. Delinquents who have attained the age of 19 years in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
2. Volunteers who have not attained the age of 26 years in the sequence in which they have volunteered for induction.
3. Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 19 years and have not attained the age of 26 years and who do not have a child or children with whom they maintain a bona fide family relationship in their homes, in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
4. Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 19 years and have not attained the age of 26 years and who have a child or children with whom they maintain a bona fide family relationship in their homes, in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.
5. Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 26 years in the order of their dates of birth with the youngest being selected first.
6. Nonvolunteers who have attained the age of 18 years and 6 months and who have not attained the age of 19 years in the order of their dates of birth with the oldest being selected first.

It is expected that all of our induction calls will be filled from 1, 2 and 3 above and that this reduction of our pool for vulnerable men makes it necessary to tighten up on our deferment policies for all registrants under age 26. This means that registrants who leave a farm where they have been deferred in Class 2-C and registrants employed on farms with low production per man per year will lose their agricultural deferment status.

MILITARY TRAINING AND SERVICE - The 1955 amendments to the 1952 Armed Forces Reserve Act make it possible for a registrant under 18½ years of age to complete his military obligations by training in a local reserve unit until he reaches age 28. The 1955 amendments also offer registrants many other choices for completing their military obligations by serving on active military duty for three to six months followed by 7 3/4 to 7 1/2 years in the reserve. If a registrant enters on active duty through the

Selective Service System, he serves for two (2) years on active duty and this is followed by three (3) years in the Ready Reserve and one (1) year in the Standby Reserve. Registrants are urged to seek information as to the choices open to them for completing their military training and service obligations by contacting their Selective Service local board and the proper Armed Forces Reserve personnel.

A registrant who requests and receives a 2-C deferment will have his age of liability for military service extended from age 26 to age 35.

HOW I USE ACP ON MY FARM

Address by Edgar Tremblay, Washington County Farmer Committeeman
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 6, 1956

It would be easiest for me to show how I use the ACP Program by giving you a brief history of my life and a description of what has happened on the farm I am presently operating. I hope, as I present this picture to you, that it will give you a clear idea of how I have used the various ACP practices and what the program has meant to me.

I was born in Bellows Falls, Vermont, in 1920 and suppose I could be called a war baby. When I was between 6 and 7 years old, my father moved onto a farm in the Town of New Haven. It was a large farm and a very inconvenient one to operate. About the time the depression hit, my father couldn't keep going with the large family he had and we lost everything. After that he worked as a laborer in the quarries and on farms. I was old enough by then to work out and worked on farms during the summer.

At the age of 15, I was forced to discontinue my education and found myself working in the C.C.C. After this, I came back home and worked by the day on farms and raised crops nights on shares with another farmer. Europe soon went into war and I moved ^{to work} into defense factories and stayed there until I enlisted in the Navy.

I naturally corresponded with my brothers during the time I was in the Service and my oldest brother and I decided to farm when we got out. In January of 1946, when I was discharged from the Service, I came home to find my brother waiting for me. We began looking for a suitable farm before I had been home two weeks.

We decided that we very definitely wanted a farm large enough to support us and also pay for itself. This, we figured, wanted to be at least a 30-cow farm. We figured the income from 10 cows for upkeep and repairs, 10 cows for payments, insurance and taxes, and the other 10 cows to live on.

We finally found a farm that suited us and settled on the farm which I am now operating in the Town of Waitsfield, in April of 1946. When we came on this farm it was carrying 68 head of cattle on 335 acres, 85 acres of meadow land and 105 of rough, unimproved pasture. The machinery was old and practically worn out. Before the first month was finished, we had to buy a new milk cooler and found that the buildings needed a substantial amount of repairs. Through spring's work and haying we found that most of our time was spent trying to keep things together enough so we could finish planting and harvesting.

In the fall, when the Community Committeeman came around, we planned to sign up for all of the material and cash practices that we could pay for. I have continued to sign up for material and some cash practices each year.

Through maximum use of the ACP Program, we have built up the farm to the point where it is now carrying 85 head of cattle and we raise all of the feed. Since 1946, we have also purchased all new machinery and done the necessary repair work, which required a complete re-wiring job.

The first year that we moved on this farm, total milk production was 147,000 pounds. Last year it was 289,000 pounds. The result is that the farm income has improved to the point where I now have a sum of money left after payments, so that I can make farm improvements and buy extra equipment, such as the field chopper we got this spring and the silo which we want to put up this summer.

I imagine all of you are interested in what ACP practices I have used over the past 9 years. The total amounts of materials and practices used are: 190 tons of lime, 1312 bags of superphosphate, 1236 bags of mixed fertilizer, installed 190 cubic yards of open drainage, carried out 22 acres of obstruction removal, and 10 acres of woodland improvement. Of course, I'm not completely "out of the woods" yet. I still have a mortgage and there are a lot of farm improvements still to make. But, when you look at the records you can see that my progress has been aided by ACP in at least 4 definite ways.

In the first place, the benefits of the conservation practices which I have carried out will last for a long time whether I stay or not. The obstruction removal practice has improved my pasture to the point where I get a crop of hay or silage off of it as well as pasture. The open drainage has improved my meadow and made it easier to work and the lime and fertilizer practices have helped raise the fertility level of all the land.

Secondly, the cost-sharing aspect of ACP has made it possible for me to install conservation practices where I would otherwise have been unable to do so.

Another direct benefit of ACP is that it has helped me turn an unproductive farm into a productive unit in less time than it normally would have taken.

The fourth point which I would like to emphasize is the technical assistance I have been able to get through ACP Cooperating Agencies, such as SCS, the Forest Service and the Extension Service. The information gathered from these sources has been of a very great value to me in developing my farm.

In conclusion, I feel that none of the improvements on my place would have been possible without the assistance of ACP and Cooperating Agencies. I hope the Program continues to help others as it has helped me.

THE PLACE OF MINERALS IN CONSERVATION WORK

Address by Dr. A. R. Midgley, Agronomist, UVM
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 6, 1956

Before discussing the subject of minerals in the program, it seems desirable to consider the place of nitrogen, a non-mineral. Nitrogen is receiving a great deal of attention by industry, State and Federal organizations. Nearly twice as much nitrogen will be supplied by the fertilizer industry in 1956 as in 1951. There are nearly three times more ammonia-producing plants now than five years ago and the production of nitrogen is increasing each year. The estimated number of tons of nitrogen in production in the United States and Canada is as follows:

1954	1955	1956	1957
2,915,000	3,629,000	4,310,000	4,676,000 (tons of N)

The real price of nitrogen has also greatly decreased. About five years ago nitrogen cost about 20 cents per pound. Present price of solid nitrogen is now less than 15 cents and this in spite of the lower value of the dollar. With this lower price and marked increase in production, research will be stimulated and greater amounts will be used.

For grass crops and corn, much more nitrogen can and will be used. In many instances nitrogen has not been used in adequate amounts to really see what its potentialities are. For instance, Mr. Lamar Ratliff of Mississippi produced a record yield of 304 bushels of corn per acre. He applied 550 pounds of nitrogen and it was estimated that another 100 pounds was supplied by the soil. This would be a total of 650 pounds of nitrogen, equivalent to that contained in 6,500 pounds of 10-10-10 fertilizer. Certainly the economics and possibility of repeating this is questionable - I mention it only to show some possibilities.

For efficient production of dairy feed, Vermont farmers should consider use of more nitrogen on corn, small grains, annual grasses, and on hay and pasture fields as soon as legume stands begin to disappear.

Since grass maintenance is more dependable than legumes and since nitrogen can increase both protein content and grass yields, are we ready to throw legumes out the window and go to a nitrogen-grass program? I do not believe we are. If Vermont farmers are going to stay in business in competition with other states we must emphasize, even more the production of legumes. This calls for a greater use of minerals and lime.

More emphasis must be placed on the deeper-rooted legumes such as alfalfa and trefoil. This requires larger amounts of lime, phosphorus and potash placed in the subsoil. Most of our alfalfa and trefoil are grown on the clay soils, which have a physically poor subsoil but which are chemically good. Both plants and animals can tolerate many adverse conditions if they can get adequate food. All non-clay soils are physically good alfalfa soils but their chemical contents are still too poor, in fact their subsoils are frequently too toxic for deep-rooted legumes. Ladino clover acreage has greatly increased because we have improved our surface soils for this rather shallow-rooted legume.

In order to have better cow feed during the dry periods, the deeper-rooted drouth-resistant legumes are needed. To build a soil for such plants it should be a two-story affair or at least a good usable basement. This requires plowing under lime and minerals. Loss of these nutrients by leaching would really not be an important item because these plants have deep roots to pick up these nutrients. The use of this extra amount of lime and minerals is actually more permanent and less expensive than a yearly application of nitrogen for grass. Furthermore, grass is never as productive as these legumes during the dry season even with heavy applications of nitrogen. Some of our experiments show that our best yielding grass even with 200 pounds of nitrogen per acre, applied several times during the year, and at a nitrogen cost of \$30 per acre, still yielded less than alfalfa. It is true that we have not exploited the nitrogen possibilities for grasses, neither have we given these deeper-rooted legumes a fair chance by using more lime and minerals in the subsoil.

In addition to "feeding the soil" it is necessary to use a starter fertilizer at time of planting. "Band seeding" which means placing some fertilizer in bands near the seed has shown to be very beneficial. Some fertilizer used in this way has always been applied with corn and potatoes. A high phosphate fertilizer is needed for this purpose because phosphates provide the desired stimulus for germinating seeds and gets them off to an early start. The old saying, "phosphate for establishment and potash for maintenance" is still a sound practice.

THE JOB OF ASC COMMITTEEMEN

Address by Harris W. Soule, Director, Northeast Area, CSS
at Vermont Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont, April 6, 1956

Mr. Chairman, it is certainly a pleasure for me to be here today attending the State-wide conference of county ASC committeemen and office managers. Al Heald is noted for his generosity and I'm sure that the topic which he has given me is testimony to this fact. He certainly has given me wide latitude. The topic assigned was "Current Events in CSS." He certainly was wise in limiting the time.

I am sure that you realize that the principal current event in the Commodity Stabilization Service is to administer adjustment and price support programs and the ACP throughout the Nation. Through the committee system, CSS acts as a go-between - farmer and government.

I have chosen as my topic today, "You and Uncle." By You I mean each one of you committeemen and the several thousand brother dairymen in Vermont. By Uncle I mean Uncle Sam. Now Uncle Sam isn't some rich uncle who lives far away, lavish with his paternalism and dollars. If you will just consider his initials, U. S., it spells us, you and me, all of us. So my remarks today will deal with the relationship between you the dairymen in Vermont and Uncle Sam, or all of us.

I would like to briefly review economic history for the past 35 years and in the light of what has happened trace the relationship between you and Uncle. Let's consider what it was back in the 20's and what it is today. What can be done to insure that each partner in that relationship understands and assumes his responsibility so that it will be harmonious and will produce the greatest possible benefits for all of us?

Thirty-five years takes us back to 1921. Some of you are old enough to remember that year and possibly some of you were farming. During World War I, dairymen in Vermont made money hand over fist and then came the precipitous drop in prices in 1921. The general price level dropped sharply and farm prices went faster and lower. The price of milk dropped and also the price of feed. The price of things that farmers purchased, however, did not drop as fast as farm prices.

I was appointed county agent in Windsor County of Vermont in June of 1923. I can well remember the unrest of Windsor County farmers. Milk prices were much lower than they had been during the war. Although feed prices were low the farmers were considering buying ingredients and mixing their feed rations rather than purchasing ready-mixed feed. The surplus of milk and especially the fight in Boston by various marketing agencies to capture as much of the Class I fluid milk market as possible prompted very unstable marketing conditions. I am sure many of you will remember the price wars resulting in even lower prices to farmers.

During this period the relationship between you and Uncle Sam was rather impersonal. He was represented by Extension Agents, the research people in the Experiment Stations, who were rather far away from you, and possibly the United States Forest Service representatives controlling blister rust. Washington seemed rather far away to most Vermont dairymen and I am sure those of you who were farming then had little hope of Uncle Sam coming to your economic rescue.

You will remember that after the war, from 1920 on for several years, there was economic chaos in Europe caused by war-time destruction. Our policy of non-economic aid to those war stricken nations resulted, finally, in a boycott of our wheat in several countries. Our agricultural exports decreased. There was a depression of agricultural prices, especially through the West. You will remember that business picked up during the late 20's and the Coolidge prosperity was lauded by business leaders. Generally, prices rose but farm prices lagged and again the price squeeze was on the farmer. Farm purchasing power decreased and small businesses in rural areas, the outposts of our economy, began to go broke.

During this period there were several attempts made by Congress to pass legislation to deal with this serious economic problem. I remember very distinctly the early attempts to pass a domestic allotment plan, a two-price system, and finally in 1927 Congress passed the McNary-Haughen Bill which was vetoed by our fellow Vermonter, President Calvin Coolidge.

You will remember possibly that the unrest in the West caused their farm leaders to demand that Congress come to their rescue. However, some of the Eastern leaders could not go along and you will also remember those farm leaders were called the "sons of wild jackasses." However, the same leaders who were so blind to the economic conditions facing the farmers during the late 20's wished that something had been done to relieve the problem after the crash came in 1929. I heard one remark during the early 30's, "Would to God that the McNary-Haughen plan had passed." However, that was water over the dam. Not only was the attitude of some of our Eastern political leaders opposed to the McNary-Haughen plan but I well remember the directors of the Windsor County Farm Bureau thought it was very radical legislation and should not be passed. As a young county agent I felt that some drastic steps should be taken to counteract the severe economic conditions facing the farmers but I did not think it wise to let these older, more experienced, and wiser men know my viewpoint.

After the crash of the stock market in 1929 the Nation was faced with economic chaos. Vermont dairymen then felt the economic difficulty. Consumer purchasing power was at a low level and surplus milk brought on price wars with correspondingly lower prices to Vermont milk producers. Finally, in 1933 Congress enacted the Agricultural Adjustment Act, which provided for marketing agreements

as well as other adjustment and price support features. Then in 1935 and 1937 amendments to the original AAA Act provided for Federal milk orders.

During this time the relationship between you and Uncle began to be closer. In 1936, which is just 20 years ago, the Soil Conservation and Domestic Allotment Act was passed, after certain provisions of the AAA Act were declared unconstitutional. This provided for control of acreage and adjustment of land use to solve the surplus situation in the West and also provided for the Agricultural Conservation Program as we know it. Through this program Uncle Sam became a partner with you in the operation of your farm, that is provided you participated in the program. The relationship between you and Uncle became very close. I remember distinctly in 1938, after the committee system was established by an amendment to the AAA Act, that farmers generally in Vermont questioned whether or not this latest development in a closer and closer relationship was wise. Some of them questioned taking checks which would help them improve their farm, believing that such a program would eventually lead to a direct interference with their farm operations by bureaucrats of the Federal Government. Twenty years after this date I still find some farmers having the same philosophy. However, many of you and your neighbors have cooperated with the Federal Government in applying the soil conserving and soil building practices to your farm for which Uncle Sam has made you a direct payment.

It may be interesting to some of you to know that Uncle Sam has invested upwards to 20 million dollars in Vermont farms. That is he has paid that money to Vermont farmers as a portion of the cost of carrying out better soil building practices. In other words, Uncle Sam has helped you improve your pastures, your haylands and farm woodlots by direct payments. He has also supported the price of dairy products in the last few years, and in 1956 the price support program for dairy products has been announced by the Secretary of Agriculture. The support prices are being continued at \$3.15 per hundredweight for manufacturing milk and 56.2 cents per pound for butterfat. These are estimated 82% of the parity equivalent price for manufacturing milk and 78% of the parity price for butterfat as of early 1956. These same dollar and cents prices represent a higher percentage of parity for the 1956-57 marketing year than the current 80 and 76% levels because of decreases in the parity prices since a year ago. As you know, some price support programs are dependent upon some means of controlling production, either through an acreage allotment, or an acreage allotment limiting acreage to certain crops or through marketing quotas. However, your gracious Uncle does not have any control over the production of dairy products.

During the past 20 years there has been, it seems to me, a distinct trend in all of these so-called action farm programs where your Uncle has offered to assist you with your farm problems. This trend has been to increase the efficiency of production, to protect our soil resources and at the same time to give farmers price protection for the basic commodities and for certain other non-basics, such as dairy products.

I am sure that you are well aware of the trend in the controls on these price support programs. It has been toward stricter and more rigid control of production through, as I said before, acreage allotments and marketing quotas. Again I wish to stress these trends. The legislation through which Uncle helps you to cope with your farm programs has promoted

- (1) Efficiency of production
- (2) The protection of soil resources
- (3) Price supports
- (4) Stricter and more rigid production control

as a protection for the price support programs.

It seems to me that Uncle has been quite generous in his offers to assist you with your farm programs. He has not only been generous in his offer to assist you to improve your farms, but he has been much more lenient with you in not requiring control of milk production.

In addition to offering direct aid this relationship between you and Uncle is much closer in 1956 than it ever has been before. It is promoted by your Extension Agents, the research work through the Experiment Station, the technicians of the Soil Conservation Service and the Forest Service, the Federal Milk Orders, and, incidentally, in some States, an interest in the milk control laws. In other words, whereas twenty years ago your relationship with Uncle Sam was rather minor; today he and the agencies representing him have developed a very close relationship.

Your efforts and those of your brother dairymen in Vermont, supported by the various farm programs which Uncle has provided, have been rather effective in at least increasing the production of milk. If we look at the reports of the Federal Milk Market Administrator in the greater Boston marketing area we see that the production of milk over the past 10 or 15 years has increased nearly four times. The figures show that in January 1940 receipts from producers in Vermont, shipping to the Boston milkshed, for that month were 48,950,000 pounds, for the month of January 1955 the receipts were 80,785,000 pounds and then for the month of January 1956 the receipts were 92,822,000 pounds. The dollar value of receipts from producers, figuring zone blended prices for 3.7% milk for the same months show that in January 1940 the Vermont producers were paid \$1,003,345, whereas for the month of January 1955 they received \$3,821,629. Contrast that with the month of January 1956 when they received \$4,166,129 - over four times what they received for the same period during 1940. This increased production has been accomplished by better feed, better care, better cows and larger herds and also for the most part a favorable milk-feed ratio. Immediately you will say that the gross receipts for milk don't tell the real story, that prices of things farmers have to buy have increased even more than farm prices. That certainly has been true for the past three years.

This relationship between you and Uncle has certainly produced results.

Recently I have read newspaper articles in some Vermont papers saying that Uncle was not doing anything to help Vermont dairymen. I just have to reconcile that with the facts as I have presented them. I have also read letters written to editors of the papers condemning Uncle for not helping farmers out of the economic price squeeze. Even Senator Aiken, one of the best friends that Vermont farmers ever had, has been criticized and ridiculed for not doing something to improve the Vermont dairyman's economic welfare.

It seems to me that this close relationship which has been built up between you and Uncle over the past 20 years resulting in more and more production and more and more efficient production may be in danger of being disrupted. Is it fair to expect one partner in the relationship to take all of the responsibility. You committeemen know the answer better than I do.

As individuals you represent your own farm, as committeemen you have the responsibility of representing Uncle Sam. Boy, you surely are in a tight spot. But being capable leaders as you are in your own communities and in State affairs, I am sure that you are discussing some of the issues which I have raised today with your neighbors and I trust that you and they will accept your responsibility in this relationship. I also hope that a harmonious relationship will exist in order that the benefits from this relationship will be maximized for all of us. Thank you.

April 1956

The New Farm Bill and How It Might Affect Vermont

(Prepared by A. F. Heald for Presentation at Annual ASC Conference
Burlington, Vermont - April 6, 1956)

What the "New Farm Bill" Is

On January 9 of this year, the President submitted to Congress a number of proposals to assist in meeting the current farm situation. Following this, the Senate Committee on Agriculture met informally with farm leaders to obtain their views and conducted further formal hearings. Out of the proposals received from all these sources, a tentative bill has been developed. This bill is known as S. 3183.

Bill S. 3183 was debated in the Senate and then, in order to expedite legislation, the Senate passed H.R. 12 which was an amended version of the House bill. This bill contained essentially the same items as were contained in S. 3183. The bill is now under detailed consideration by the Senate and House conferees. There are five senators and five representatives on the conference committee. Senator Aiken is one of the conferees. There is no way of telling at the present time just what kind of a bill will finally be passed.

This bill provides for immediate assistance to farmers in the form of increased support prices; reduced production of surplus commodities and increased soil, water, wildlife, and forest conservation through acreage reserve and conservation reserve programs; increased disposal or removal of surplus commodities; needed changes in marketing quota and allotment legislation; a two-price plan for rice; assistance to states for tree planting and reforestation; and price reporting and research on forest products.

Background

Although total farm production in 1955 was 12 percent greater than in 1947, gross farm income was 9.4 percent below 1947, and net farm income was down 38 percent. During the same period national income from nonagricultural sources had increased about 68 percent and farm production expenses had risen 11.4 percent. The parity ratio, which measures the relationship between prices received by farmers and prices paid by farmers, dropped from 115 in 1947 to 80 in January of this year.

The situation facing agriculture is shown graphically in the attached exhibits.

MAJOR FEATURES OF THE PROPOSED SOIL BANK*

	<u>Acreage Reserve</u>	<u>Conservation Reserve</u>
Objective	: Primarily surplus reduction. : Also conservation	: Conservation and reduce : acreage of row crops, : oilseeds and small grains
Crops involved	: Wheat, cotton, corn, peanuts, : rice and certain types of : tobacco	: Any cropland
Acreage involved:	15 - 20 million acres	About 25 million acres
Form of participation	: Voluntary underplanting of : acreage allotments	: Voluntary placing of : specific acres in Conser- : vation Reserve
Use of Soil Bank acres	: No crop for harvest; devote : to soil conserving uses	: Establish forage, water : conservation or tree cover
Grazing permitted?	: No	: Prohibited for a specified : period
Time element	: One-year contracts available : for 4-year period	: 3 to 5 years except for tree : planting which is 10-15 yrs.
Compensation to farmers	: Negotiable certificates : based on the commodity, : redeemable in cash or in : kind	: 1. Fair share of cost of : establishing cover. : 2. Annual payments for a : specified period.
Rough estimate of cost	: \$528 - 750 million a year	: Perhaps \$350 million the : first year; \$1 billion : over the first three years

*Based on proposed legislation as of 3/21/56

Effect of Soil Bank in Vermont

THE ALONE WILL TELL!

No farms in Vermont will be eligible for the "Acreage Reserve" feature since we have no allotment farms.

It is hoped that the program Nationally will prevent millions of acres of land that were in allotment crops from being used for dairying and other crop production.

Some Vermont farmers may make use of the Conservation Reserve part of the Soil Bank. However, because of the provision that a farmer must reduce his total acreage of grain and row crops by an acreage equal to that placed in the Conservation Reserve, participation will be limited.

Other Legislation in New Farm Bill of Interest to Vermont

Dairy Production - The bill provides for price support for milk products at not less than 80% nor more than 90% of parity and provides for using a parity equivalent for manufacturing milk based on the 30-month period July 1946 to December 1948, inclusive. This would result in computing the parity equivalent of manufactured milk at 88% of parity instead of 83.3% as is now being done by using the most recent 10-year period.

School Milk and Brucellosis Programs - Originally the bill contained a section on school milk and brucellosis programs. The Congress, however, recently passed this as a separate bill which is now before the President.

This bill extends the special school milk program for two additional years and provides increased funds for the program.

The bill also extends the brucellosis eradication program for two additional years and provides increased funds for that program.

Vermont had an allocation last year of \$142,000 under the special milk program and is asking for \$86,000 to continue the brucellosis program through July of this year.

Forestry Provisions - The bill provides for assistance to states for tree planting and reforestation. It provides that a state may draw up a plan of reforestation and submit it to the Secretary for consideration and approval. When approved, the Secretary of Agriculture will be authorized to assist the state by furnishing advice, technical assistance and financial contributions up to an amount equal to the state expenditure for the same purpose.

There is also a section in the bill which would provide for price reporting and research with respect to forest products.

Effect of Soil Bank on Agricultural Conservation Program

The Soil Bank is designed to supplement and not replace the regular Agricultural Conservation Program of the Department of Agriculture. The Congress has not yet decided on the extent of an ACP to approve for the coming year. However, the Department has asked for a \$250,000,000 program similar in size to that authorized for 1956.

Vermont currently gets about \$1,000,000 under the ACP program to assist farmers financially in carrying out soil building practices. Vermont farmers invest an equal amount of their money. In this fashion, about \$2,000,000 worth of conservation work is done annually under the program in Vermont. The credit made available to farmers through the facilities of banks and other lending agencies has assisted materially in this program.

Other Programs Which Will Continue

This paper does not deal with plans for the continuation of Federal programs which have been assisting agriculture for many years. It is anticipated that funds for carrying on Extension work, research work, work of the Soil Conservation Service, Forest Service, Vocational Education and Farmers Home Administration will continue.

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Exhibit A

NET INCOME FROM FARMING

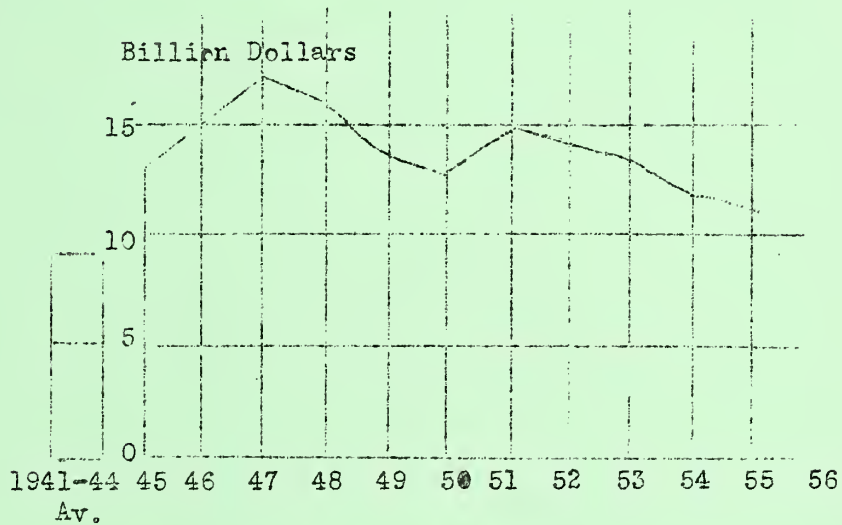
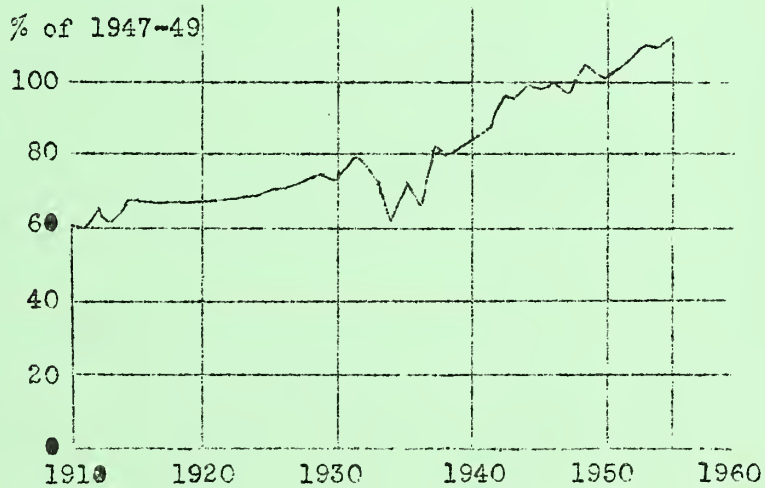


Exhibit B

U. S. FARM OUTPUT



1. The first part of the paper discusses the importance of the study of the history of the United States. It is argued that a knowledge of the past is essential for a full understanding of the present. The author points out that the United States has a long and complex history, and that it is important to understand the events and people that have shaped the nation. The author also discusses the role of the government in the development of the country, and the impact of the American Revolution. The author concludes that the study of the history of the United States is a vital part of the education of every citizen.

2. The second part of the paper discusses the role of the government in the development of the United States. It is argued that the government has played a central role in the history of the country, and that it is important to understand the role of the government in the development of the nation. The author points out that the government has been responsible for the creation of the United States, and for the development of the country. The author also discusses the role of the government in the development of the economy, and the impact of the government on the lives of the people. The author concludes that the government is a vital part of the United States, and that it is important to understand the role of the government in the development of the nation.

Exhibit C

FARMERS' PRICES

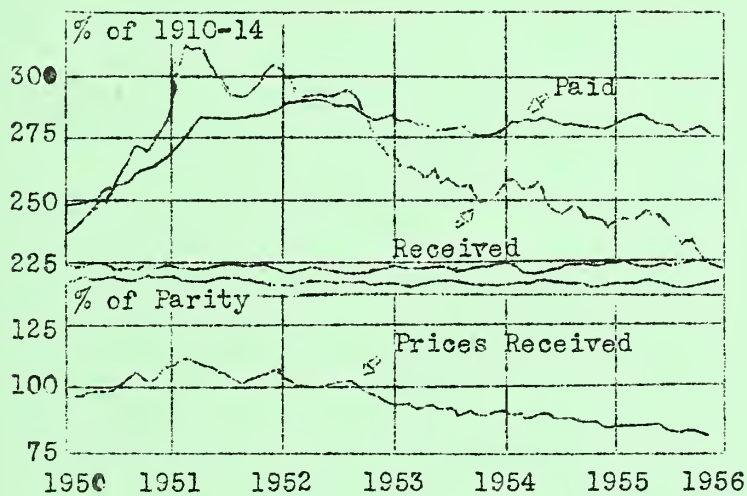
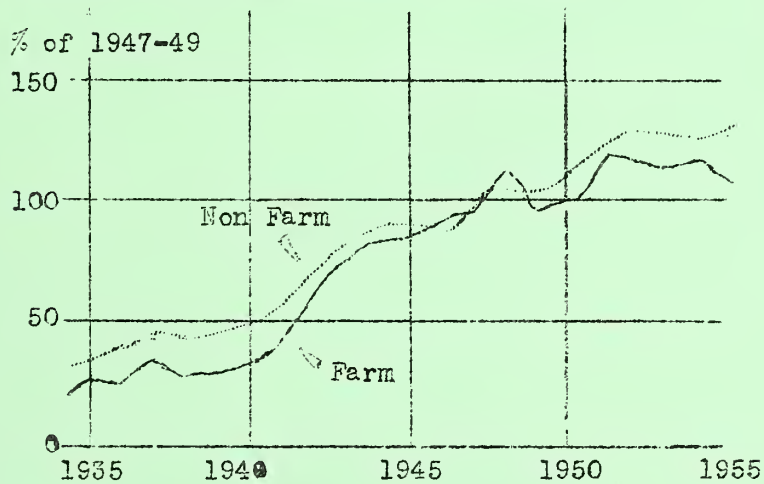


Exhibit D

FARM AND NON FARM INCOME PER PERSON*

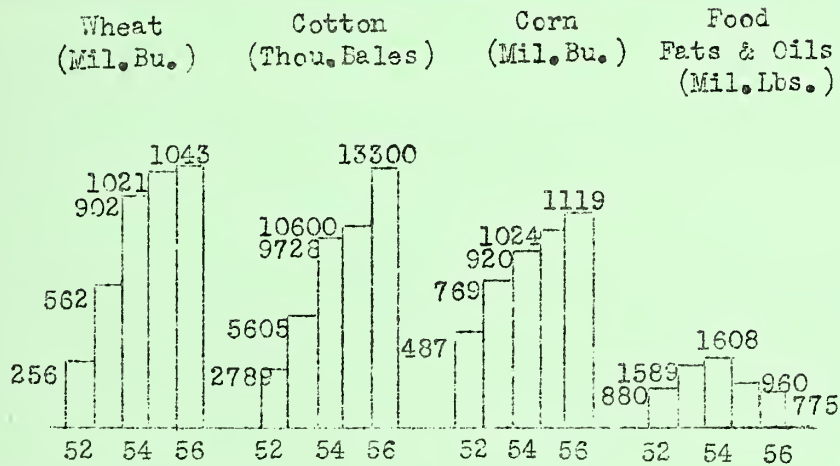


*Net income from all sources

Exhibit E

CARRYOVER OF MAJOR FARM COMMODITIES

Height of Bars are Proportional to Value



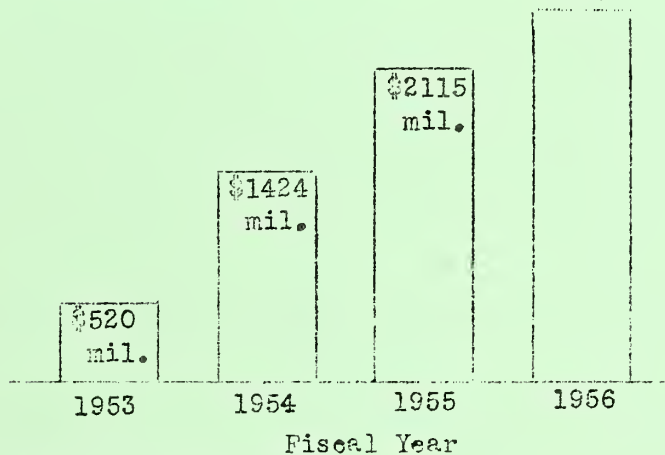
Crop Year Beginning

Wheat-July 1, Cotton-Aug. 1, Corn-Oct. 1, Fats & Oils-Oct. 1

Exhibit F

CCC DISPOSAL OF PRICE
SUPPORT COMMODITIES*

About
\$2500
mil.



*CCC Cost Value

1. 2. 3. 4. 5. 6. 7. 8. 9. 10.

11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17. 18. 19. 20.

21. 22. 23. 24. 25. 26. 27. 28. 29. 30.

31. 32. 33. 34. 35. 36. 37. 38. 39. 40.

41. 42. 43. 44. 45. 46. 47. 48. 49. 50.

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ASC State Conference
Burlington, Vermont
April 5-6, 1956

Program Planning Recommendations - 1957 Agricultural Conservation Program

The committee on program planning submits the following recommendations for the consideration of the full conference. For convenience, these recommendations are listed as nearly as possible in the order in which they were taken up at the county meetings.

Background Statement

These recommendations took into consideration the National situation as it affects agriculture, the fact that the farmer's income is down nationally and the fact that a new Soil Bank is being proposed.

With these things in mind, a series of meetings were held in every Vermont county at which time our community committeemen, our county committeemen and our technical people studied all the problems and made recommendations as to the kind of a program they would like for Vermont. The delegates at this conference had before them the county recommendations and the technical group recommendations and gave full consideration to the respective recommendations.

Importance of Minerals to our Vermont Program

The group reaffirmed previous positions that a program to be of benefit in Vermont, in fact in New England, must take into consideration the establishment of sod ground. In our area of grassland farming, the use of minerals is a must in the Agricultural Conservation Program.

Program Policies

The records are now clear in regard to the 1954 Agricultural Conservation Program results. Published figures indicate that participation has dropped to an all-time low nationally and in New England our participation was out in half. It is therefore apparent that the 1954-type program is too restrictive. It is not getting the job done. To this end, it appears important that we reexamine our principles very carefully and change them to those principles to which the local people agree, believe in and will carry out.

To this end, the group spent quite a bit of time on the seven principles which were in effect in last year's National handbook. We have the following recommendations in regard to these principles:

We agree that Principles 1, 2, 3, 5 and 6 are satisfactory as listed in the 1956 practice handbook.

In connection with Principle 4, we recommend that it be changed by the elimination of the last two sentences. The principle thus would read as follows: "Costs should be shared only on practices which it is believed farmers would not carry out to the needed extent without program assistance."

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Figure 1. The effect of the concentration of the *Agrobacterium* suspension on the transformation efficiency of *Agrobacterium* strains. The *Agrobacterium* strains were grown in the YEA medium for 24 h and then adjusted to the OD₆₀₀ of 0.1. The *Agrobacterium* strains were then grown in the YEA medium with the concentration of 0.1, 0.2, 0.3, 0.4, 0.5, 0.6, 0.7, 0.8, 0.9, 1.0, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, 1.5, 1.6, 1.7, 1.8, 1.9, 2.0, 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, 2.5, 2.6, 2.7, 2.8, 2.9, 3.0, 3.1, 3.2, 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, 3.6, 3.7, 3.8, 3.9, 4.0, 4.1, 4.2, 4.3, 4.4, 4.5, 4.6, 4.7, 4.8, 4.9, 5.0, 5.1, 5.2, 5.3, 5.4, 5.5, 5.6, 5.7, 5.8, 5.9, 6.0, 6.1, 6.2, 6.3, 6.4, 6.5, 6.6, 6.7, 6.8, 6.9, 7.0, 7.1, 7.2, 7.3, 7.4, 7.5, 7.6, 7.7, 7.8, 7.9, 8.0, 8.1, 8.2, 8.3, 8.4, 8.5, 8.6, 8.7, 8.8, 8.9, 9.0, 9.1, 9.2, 9.3, 9.4, 9.5, 9.6, 9.7, 9.8, 9.9, 10.0, 10.1, 10.2, 10.3, 10.4, 10.5, 10.6, 10.7, 10.8, 10.9, 11.0, 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.4, 11.5, 11.6, 11.7, 11.8, 11.9, 12.0, 12.1, 12.2, 12.3, 12.4, 12.5, 12.6, 12.7, 12.8, 12.9, 13.0, 13.1, 13.2, 13.3, 13.4, 13.5, 13.6, 13.7, 13.8, 13.9, 14.0, 14.1, 14.2, 14.3, 14.4, 14.5, 14.6, 14.7, 14.8, 14.9, 15.0, 15.1, 15.2, 15.3, 15.4, 15.5, 15.6, 15.7, 15.8, 15.9, 16.0, 16.1, 16.2, 16.3, 16.4, 16.5, 16.6, 16.7, 16.8, 16.9, 17.0, 17.1, 17.2, 17.3, 17.4, 17.5, 17.6, 17.7, 17.8, 17.9, 18.0, 18.1, 18.2, 18.3, 18.4, 18.5, 18.6, 18.7, 18.8, 18.9, 19.0, 19.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.4, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7, 19.8, 19.9, 20.0, 20.1, 20.2, 20.3, 20.4, 20.5, 20.6, 20.7, 20.8, 20.9, 21.0, 21.1, 21.2, 21.3, 21.4, 21.5, 21.6, 21.7, 21.8, 21.9, 22.0, 22.1, 22.2, 22.3, 22.4, 22.5, 22.6, 22.7, 22.8, 22.9, 23.0, 23.1, 23.2, 23.3, 23.4, 23.5, 23.6, 23.7, 23.8, 23.9, 24.0, 24.1, 24.2, 24.3, 24.4, 24.5, 24.6, 24.7, 24.8, 24.9, 25.0, 25.1, 25.2, 25.3, 25.4, 25.5, 25.6, 25.7, 25.8, 25.9, 26.0, 26.1, 26.2, 26.3, 26.4, 26.5, 26.6, 26.7, 26.8, 26.9, 27.0, 27.1, 27.2, 27.3, 27.4, 27.5, 27.6, 27.7, 27.8, 27.9, 28.0, 28.1, 28.2, 28.3, 28.4, 28.5, 28.6, 28.7, 28.8, 28.9, 29.0, 29.1, 29.2, 29.3, 29.4, 29.5, 29.6, 29.7, 29.8, 29.9, 30.0, 30.1, 30.2, 30.3, 30.4, 30.5, 30.6, 30.7, 30.8, 30.9, 31.0, 31.1, 31.2, 31.3, 31.4, 31.5, 31.6, 31.7, 31.8, 31.9, 32.0, 32.1, 32.2, 32.3, 32.4, 32.5, 32.6, 32.7, 32.8, 32.9, 33.0, 33.1, 33.2, 33.3, 33.4, 33.5, 33.6, 33.7, 33.8, 33.9, 34.0, 34.1, 34.2, 34.3, 34.4, 34.5, 34.6, 34.7, 34.8, 34.9, 35.0, 35.1, 35.2, 35.3, 35.4, 35.5, 35.6, 35.7, 35.8, 35.9, 36.0, 36.1, 36.2, 36.3, 36.4, 36.5, 36.6, 36.7, 36.8, 36.9, 37.0, 37.1, 37.2, 37.3, 37.4, 37.5, 37.6, 37.7, 37.8, 37.9, 38.0, 38.1, 38.2, 38.3, 38.4, 38.5, 38.6, 38.7, 38.8, 38.9, 39.0, 39.1, 39.2, 39.3, 39.4, 39.5, 39.6, 39.7, 39.8, 39.9, 40.0, 40.1, 40.2, 40.3, 40.4, 40.5, 40.6, 40.7, 40.8, 40.9, 41.0, 41.1, 41.2, 41.3, 41.4, 41.5, 41.6, 41.7, 41.8, 41.9, 42.0, 42.1, 42.2, 42.3, 42.4, 42.5, 42.6, 42.7, 42.8, 42.9, 43.0, 43.1, 43.2, 43.3, 43.4, 43.5, 43.6, 43.7, 43.8, 43.9, 44.0, 44.1, 44.2, 44.3, 44.4, 44.5, 44.6, 44.7, 44.8, 44.9, 45.0, 45.1, 45.2, 45.3, 45.4, 45.5, 45.6, 45.7, 45.8, 45.9, 46.0, 46.1, 46.2, 46.3, 46.4, 46.5, 46.6, 46.7, 46.8, 46.9, 47.0, 47.1, 47.2, 47.3, 47.4, 47.5, 47.6, 47.7, 47.8, 47.9, 48.0, 48.1, 48.2, 48.3, 48.4, 48.5, 48.6, 48.7, 48.8, 48.9, 49.0, 49.1, 49.2, 49.3, 49.4, 49.5, 49.6, 49.7, 49.8, 49.9, 50.0, 50.1, 50.2, 50.3, 50.4, 50.5, 50.6, 50.7, 50.8, 50.9, 51.0, 51.1, 51.2, 51.3, 51.4, 51.5, 51.6, 51.7, 51.8, 51.9, 52.0, 52.1, 52.2, 52.3, 52.4, 52.5, 52.6, 52.7, 52.8, 52.9, 53.0, 53.1, 53.2, 53.3, 53.4, 53.5, 53.6, 53.7, 53.8, 53.9, 54.0, 54.1, 54.2, 54.3, 54.4, 54.5, 54.6, 54.7, 54.8, 54.9, 55.0, 55.1, 55.2, 55.3, 55.4, 55.5, 55.6, 55.7, 55.8, 55.9, 56.0, 56.1, 56.2, 56.3, 56.4, 56.5, 56.6, 56.7, 56.8, 56.9, 57.0, 57.1, 57.2, 57.3, 57.4, 57.5, 57.6, 57.7, 57.8, 57.9, 58.0, 58.1, 58.2, 58.3, 58.4, 58.5, 58.6, 58.7, 58.8, 58.9, 59.0, 59.1, 59.2, 59.3, 59.4, 59.5, 59.6, 59.7, 59.8, 59.9, 60.0, 60.1, 60.2, 60.3, 60.4, 60.5, 60.6, 60.7, 60.8, 60.9, 61.0, 61.1, 61.2, 61.3, 61.4, 61.5, 61.6, 61.7, 61.8, 61.9, 62.0, 62.1, 62.2, 62.3, 62.4, 62.5, 62.6, 62.7, 62.8, 62.9, 63.0, 63.1, 63.2, 63.3, 63.4, 63.5, 63.6, 63.7, 63.8, 63.9, 64.0, 64.1, 64.2, 64.3, 64.4, 64.5, 64.6, 64.7, 64.8, 64.9, 65.0, 65.1, 65.2, 65.3, 65.4, 65.5, 65.6, 65.7, 65.8, 65.9, 66.0, 66.1, 66.2, 66.3, 66.4, 66.5, 66.6, 66.7, 66.8, 66.9, 67.0, 67.1, 67.2, 67.3, 67.4, 67.5, 67.6, 67.7, 67.8, 67.9, 68.0, 68.1

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We are not in accord with Principle 7 as now written. In its place, we suggest the following: "The principle of initial establishment is sound, but to make it workable it must be administered at the State level. We therefore recommend that State Committees be authorized to carry out the initial establishment concept at the State level. The practices to which it should be applied should be determined by the individual states."

The group discussed the setting up of farm allowances and agreed that the system used in 1956 should be continued.

The group recommended that the sign-up period in Vermont should be from September 15 to October 15.

The group agreed that counties should be permitted to sign up farmers in the county office for lime as soon as the program is announced. This would permit early orders for lime even before the farm contacts were made.

The group agreed that the date for collections should be set within the individual counties.

Practice Recommendations

We have the following recommendations in connection with specific practices. References in connection with these practices will be to the practices offered to our State in 1956 unless otherwise specified.

Practice No. 1 - Lime

We believe that the practice offered in 1956 should be continued with reference to initial treatment removed.

The cost-share rate should be on a 50-50 basis.

Practices Nos. 2, 3 and 4

The group discussed the use of minerals in connection with new seeding and permanent pastures and made the following recommendation: "A practice should be developed for the use of fertilizers in connection with seeding and top-dressing hayland and pastures. The practice should be similar to that offered in Vermont in 1953."

It was agreed that the cost-share rate should be on a 50-50 basis.

Practice No. 5 - Planting Trees

The group agreed that this practice should be continued as in 1956 with the following addition: "Species other than those specified can be approved upon recommendation of the county forester."

It was agreed that the cost-share should be 80% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre.

On the 1st of June 1864, the first of the season's
hail fell in the morning, and was followed by a
heavy shower of rain, which continued till about
10 o'clock, when it cleared away, and the sun
shone brightly till about 4 o'clock, when it
became cloudy again, and a light shower of rain
fell in the evening.

The weather was very pleasant, and the
hail was much admired by the children.

The first of the season's hail fell in the
morning, and was followed by a heavy shower of
rain, which continued till about 10 o'clock,

when it cleared away, and the sun shone
brightly till about 4 o'clock, when it became
cloudy again, and a light shower of rain
fell in the evening.

The weather was very pleasant, and the
hail was much admired by the children.

End of the first of the season's hail.

The first of the season's hail fell in the
morning, and was followed by a heavy shower of
rain, which continued till about 10 o'clock,

End of the first of the season's hail.

The weather was very pleasant, and the
hail was much admired by the children.

The first of the season's hail fell in the
morning, and was followed by a heavy shower of
rain, which continued till about 10 o'clock,

End of the first of the season's hail.

The weather was very pleasant, and the
hail was much admired by the children.

End of the first of the season's hail.

The first of the season's hail fell in the
morning, and was followed by a heavy shower of
rain, which continued till about 10 o'clock,

The weather was very pleasant, and the
hail was much admired by the children.

Practice No. 6 - Woodland Improvement

It was agreed that this practice should be continued as in 1956.

It was agreed that the cost-share should be changed to 80% of the cost not to exceed \$25 per acre.

Practice No. 15 - Open Drainage

Counties agreed that this practice should be continued as in 1956.

The cost-share rate for spreading spoil should be combined with the cost-share rate for digging the ditch.

Practice No. 17 - Shaping or Land Grading

It was agreed that this practice should be continued as in 1956 with the following addition: "Land subject to flooding should be protected by cover crops within the program year."

It was agreed that the cost-share rate should be the same as in 1956.

The group agreed that Practices 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 19, 19(a) and 20 should be offered as in 1956.

Additional Practices

The group recommended that a practice be developed for the construction of farm roads to prevent erosion. This practice should include logging roads and roads in sugar bush. The cost-share rate would be on a 50-50 basis. This practice must be carried out in accordance with specifications drawn up by the SCS. The group recommended that a separate practice for fencing be provided in 1957. The cost-share rate for fencing should be 40¢ for 2-strand fence and 50¢ for 3-strand fence.

The group considered the several additional practices which were recommended by the various counties. Since there was only one county recommending each of these practices, it appeared that the practical solution to this would be to allow each county to write up their desires under the special practice provisions contained in the State handbook.

The group, however, did discuss^{ed} the advisability of ^{having} developing a special practice for spring or seep development for livestock water and recommended ~~against~~ doing this. They also recommended ~~against~~ providing a practice for the piping of water from existing sources to other areas for better distribution of grazing.

Conservation Materials and Services

The group agreed that we should continue to furnish conservation materials and services under contract in 1957 as we did in 1956, but they pointed out that the individual types of materials and services to be furnished in a county should be left up to the determination of that county.

The group agreed that the extent of the use of purchase orders should be left up to the individual county.

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12. [Illegible]

13. [Illegible]

14. [Illegible]

15. [Illegible]

16. [Illegible]

In connection with cash collections, the following recommendations were made: For lime, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

For superphosphate, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

For mixed fertilizer, the farmer should pay 50% of the cost and the Government 50% of the cost.

The group discussed the establishment of payment rates in connection with purchase orders under the mixed fertilizer practice. It was agreed that the Government cost-share under purchase orders should be the same as under contract.

Respectfully submitted,

B. Frank Myott
For the Program Planning Committee

B. Frank Myott, Chairman
Clyde Vance, Vice Chairman
Almon F. Heald, Secretary

Other Members of the Program Planning Committee

Sedgewick Preston, Addison County
Ball Lyons, Bennington County
Everett Lillie, Bennington County
Gay Baldwin, Chittenden County
Elden Hartshorn, Essex County
Earle Clark, Essex County
Reginald Nichols, Franklin County
Jay Haylett, Grand Isle County
Howard Kittell, Lamoille County
Walter Wheatley, Orange County
Ernest Johnson, Orleans County
George Ridlon, Rutland County
David Newton, Rutland County
W. J. Bisson, Washington County
David Allen, Windham County
Matthew Watson, Windsor County
William Stone, Windsor County

Others contributing to the discussion included:

Thomas Macauley, State Committee Alumnus
Henry Balivet, Assistant to Senator Flanders
R. P. Davison, Associate Dean and Director,
College of Agriculture, UVM
H. W. Soule, Area Director, Northeast Region, CSS
L. J. Peet, State Soil Conservationist
Robert Slatér, President, State Association, SCD
Irene Abell, Vermont State Office

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year.

2. The second part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year and the progress of the work during the year.

3. The third part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year and the progress of the work during the year.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year and the progress of the work during the year.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year and the progress of the work during the year.

Soil Bank and ACP Tie-In

As the Soil Bank is developed, the practices in it should carry the same cost-shares as ACP. If the maximum cost-share under the Soil Bank is 80 percent, it should be under ACP, but the State Committee must have authority to establish rates below the maximum.

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

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Report of Agricultural Conservation Program Operations Committee

The committee discussed various phases and problems concerning the operation of the ACP. We present to the conference as a whole for its consideration and adoption the following recommendations:

Reporting Performance

1. Method of Reporting

It was unanimously agreed that performance reports should be made at the farm at the time of enrollment, if not previously reported by the farmer. However, in cases where reports were not complete at the time of the farm visit, such reports would be mailed or delivered to the county office by the farmer as soon as completed.

2. Evidence of Performance

Sales slips as used in the past were considered adequate and should be used in the future. In cases involving farm labor for the completion of certain practices, such as woodlot improvement, it was agreed that a uniform form should be adopted similar to the suggested form studied at the meeting. The two changes recommended were, (1) that the program year be inserted on the form and (2) that there should be at least two blank lines for entries of other items not otherwise specified. The evidence supplied by vendors with purchase orders was reported in most cases as satisfactory. It was agreed that in all cases the vendor should furnish an itemized statement on a regular bill form with the completed purchase order.

It was agreed that the deadline date for supplying such evidence should be left optional with each county committee. Evidence submitted in support of the practice, after being reviewed by the office manager and county committee, should be date-stamped with county office identification and returned to the farmer.

3. Recording Completed Practices

It was agreed that the method of reporting completed practices on Form ACP 203-3 as outlined in State Office memo dated October 5, 1955 should be continued as long as it is necessary to record diminishing acres.

4. Instructions for Checking Performance

It was unanimously agreed that the instructions for checking performance as furnished by the State Office were adequate. It was suggested that possibly some examples could be included which would help to clarify the instructions.

5. Form ACP-245

It was finally agreed that the space allotted in column F of Form ACP-245 for reporting performance was too small and that the spaces between lines should be larger. It was unanimously agreed that counties would prefer to use the Form ACP-201 for the request and report of performance on the back of the form and that the application for payment should be reported on a separate form. In this case, it was recommended that the Form ACP-201 be

19. The following table shows the results of the survey of the use of the word "God" in the Bible. The table is divided into two parts, one for the Old Testament and one for the New Testament. The first part shows the number of times the word "God" is used in each book, and the second part shows the number of times the word "God" is used in each chapter. The table is based on the King James Version of the Bible.

furnished in rediset form. One copy of this would be left with the farmer and two copies retained in the county office.

Applications for Payment

The present provisions for early payment were considered desirable and, if any change be made, it was voted that the date be even earlier. The deadline date of March 1 was considered satisfactory.

Sign-up

1. Method of Enrollment

It was unanimously agreed that enrollment should be made by farm visits, however, it was considered advisable that counties would have the option of enrolling farmers at meetings if they so desired.

2. Enrollment Period

It was agreed that this be left optional with counties.

3. Cost-Sharing Limited to Prior Requests

This topic was well discussed and it was finally agreed that the present policy whereby farmers must request practices they plan to carry out in order to receive prior approval was the most satisfactory. The deadline date for requesting practices should be left optional with each county committee.

4. Breakdown of Program Funds to the Farm

The committee agreed that the method for determining the ^{practice} allowance should be by the use of a guide based on needs as recommended by the Extension Service. The feature of concurrent operations as used in 1956 was considered satisfactory and should be continued in 1957.

Following a discussion on assistance for most needed practices, it was agreed that the farmer should determine the practices needed for his farm and that the most needed practice should be listed first and the others listed in order of their importance and that farmers should be given a right of appeal when notified of approved practices.

5. Policy on Payment of Cash Collections

a. Deferred Payments

It was finally agreed that having different payment dates for conservation materials was very satisfactory and that these different dates would be left optional with the counties.

b. Small Payment Increase

The present system of computing the small payment increase was discussed and, while there was a rather limited discussion on this topic, the office managers present at the meeting agreed that the small payment increase should be deducted by the community committeeman at the time of sign-up based on the amount of money paid at that time.

1. The first part of the report is a general introduction to the subject of the study.

2. The second part of the report is a detailed description of the methods used in the study.

3. The third part of the report is a discussion of the results of the study.

4. The fourth part of the report is a conclusion and a list of references.

5. The fifth part of the report is a list of appendices.

6. The sixth part of the report is a list of figures and tables.

7. The seventh part of the report is a list of footnotes.

8. The eighth part of the report is a list of symbols and abbreviations.

9. The ninth part of the report is a list of acknowledgments.

10. The tenth part of the report is a list of references.

11. The eleventh part of the report is a list of appendices.

12. The twelfth part of the report is a list of figures and tables.

The subcommittee recommended that the small payment increase should be changed from \$14 to \$28 and the limit should be upped from \$200 to \$300, but after discussion the full conference voted that the small payment increase should be retained as in 1956.

6. Instructions for Purchase Orders

This topic was discussed briefly. All those present were apparently very satisfied with the instructions as furnished.

It was suggested that county committees hold meetings with vendors to review instructions and discuss problems for a better understanding of the program.

7. Sign-up Instructions

The yellow sheet containing community committeemen instructions was reviewed and considered satisfactory. It was suggested, however, that sample entries be shown for each of the practices in the handbook rather than just a small number.

8. Training Schools

a. Suggestions for Improvement

It was finally agreed that more examples should be worked out in detail on blackboards or that charts or slides be used which would show proper entries to be made. It was felt that it was important to simplify instructions and use more practical examples demonstrating the use of the instructions.

b. Pre-Training Schools

It was unanimously agreed that a meeting of county committeemen and office managers be held at a central place in the State prior to training schools as was done in 1955. This was considered a big help to these people in planning the method of holding training schools in their counties.

c. Full Cooperation of County Committee

The group agreed that county committeemen should do follow-up work with community committeemen after the training schools.

Suggested Topics

1. What Changes Would Increase Participation?

The following items were suggested:

1. Simplification of forms and more space for practices.
2. Farmers be notified of shipment and delivery of CMS materials.
The system for doing this should be worked out at the county level.
3. Staggered cash collections.
4. Better bulksread deliveries.

2. Forms

printed forms originating in Washington
It was suggested that all ~~forms~~ should be in rediset and more lines and spaces between lines for entering practices. It was moved that Form ACP-247 and the forestry prior approval form be combined into one form if possible.

3. Supplementary Instructions

It was agreed that the question and answer sheet for community committeemen be used and the fact sheet for farmers that was furnished last year was very helpful.

It was favored that the policy of working committees at State Conferences be continued.

Respectfully submitted:

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman
For the ACP Operations Committee

Hugh E. Evans, Chairman
Floyd Weld, Vice Chairman
Edward N. Blondin, Secretary

Other members of the ACP Operations Committee

Howard Foster, Addison County
Edla Browne, Addison County
Clyde Bryant, Bennington County
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County
Mildred Murphy, Caledonia County
Ray Collins, Chittenden County
C. E. Wright, Essex County
Mildred Bell, Essex County
Floyd Weld, Franklin County
Walter Rockwood, Franklin County
George Caswell, Grand Isle County
Grace Cameron, Grand Isle County
Arthur Stancliff, Lamoille County
F. Milo Leighton, Orange County
Louise Rand, Orange County
Gordon Farr, Orange County
James Brayton, Rutland County
Bethany French, Rutland County
Everett Walbridge, Washington County
Gordon Butler, Washington County
Myron Allen, Windham County
Mae Carpenter, Windham County
Carroll Bean, Windsor County

Others contributing to the discussion included:

Paul Koger, Administrator, ACPS
H. W. Soule, Area Director, Northeast Region, CSS
R. P. Davison, Associate Dean and Director
College of Agriculture, UVM
Madelene R. Bevins, Vermont State Office
Marcia D. Tudhope, Vermont State Office

NOTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

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ASC STATE CONFERENCE
Burlington, Vermont
April 5 - 6, 1956

Report of the Committee on Administrative Problems,
Including Elections, CCC Activities, Public Relations,
and General Administration

The Committee on Administrative Problems wishes to make the following recommendations with regard to administrative problems, including elections, CCC activities, public relations and general administration at the county level:

1. Administrative Problems

a. County Committee Meetings

The group, as a whole, recommended that a regular date be set for holding county committee meetings. However, they feel that this decision should be left up to the individual county. An agenda should be prepared for the meeting. It was left up to each individual county as to whether the agenda should be sent out prior to the meeting.

The group was in favor of inviting guests, especially community committeemen, to county committee meetings from time to time, administrative funds permitting.

It is recommended that accurate and specific minutes of county committee meetings be kept and that copies be sent to the county committeemen and the State Office within 5/days following the meeting.
working

b. Supervision of County Office Personnel

The group recommended that the county committee determine the policies and generally supervise the county office and that the county office manager carry out the policies.

The group agreed that the county office manager should carry out the day-to-day operations of the county office and that she should contact the county committee for any decision on problems that arise. It is her responsibility to train and supervise office assistants with the help of the fieldman.

c. Supervision of Fieldwork

The group agreed that supervision of the fieldwork should be done by the county committee. They recommended that the county be divided into areas and that one county committeeman should be responsible for the fieldwork in each area.

d. Training of Community Committeemen and Field Workers

The committee recommended that sign-up and checking should be done by county-wide training schools as in the past, and that there be more time spent in working out specific examples and that less time be spent explaining the program at these schools. The training of consignees should be done by the county office managers.

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e. Elections

The group recommended that the county conventions be conducted as outlined in the County Administrative Handbook, namely that the county office manager act as temporary chairman of the convention.

It was recommended that it be left optional with the counties as to the method and time of holding elections, and that the newly-elected community committeemen take office on January 1 following the election.

f. Keeping Informed on CCC and Other Programs

It was agreed that the county committees and county office managers should have a general knowledge of the commodity programs and price support programs that are not active in the State and they should familiarize themselves with the operations of those that are active in the State.

2. Related Activities

a. Publicity

The group agreed that in order to keep the public informed, all media available should be used to the fullest extent possible.

The group agreed that non-agricultural leaders should be kept informed of our program. The method of doing this should be left up to the counties.

The group recommended that administrative funds be made available for printing handbooks in our State.

b. Information for Community Committeemen

The group recommended that a newsletter be sent out by the county office manager periodically. They also favored holding educational meetings similar to the lime meetings which were held last year, and that ACP tours be held, if funds permitted.

c. Cooperation With Other Agencies

The group felt that cooperation with other agencies is very good in all counties in Vermont and that they should continue to improve it wherever possible.

The group recommended that 5% Agreement funds be determined on a State-wide basis, rather than on a county basis as is done at present.

1. The first part of the report deals with the general situation of the country and the progress of the work during the year.

2. The second part of the report deals with the results of the work during the year.

3. The third part of the report deals with the financial statement of the year.

4. The fourth part of the report deals with the conclusions of the year.

5. The fifth part of the report deals with the recommendations for the future.

6. The sixth part of the report deals with the summary of the year.

7. The seventh part of the report deals with the appendixes.

8. The eighth part of the report deals with the index.

9. The ninth part of the report deals with the bibliography.

3. Other Topics

a. Rate of Pay for County Committeemen

The present rate of pay for county committeemen was discussed by the group. It was recommended that the rate of pay for county committeemen be increased from \$10 to \$12 a day.

Members of Committee

Wayne Fuller	John Stephenson	Addison
E. W. Mattison	John J. DeVito	Bennington
Donald Larocque		Caledonia
Lloyd Button	Dorothy Howard	Chittenden
	Robert Carlson	
Ray French		Essex
Stuart Newton	Avis Bronson	Franklin
Alan Kinney		Grand Isle
Ray Perkins	Hazel Hoyt	Lamoille
Edson Gifford		Orange
Henry Dagesse	Patricia Walsh	Orleans
	Roger Whitcomb	
Roy Burroughs		Rutland
D. Drew Bisbee	Marjorie Leith	Washington
Robert Gaines		Windham
Wesley Young	Betty Dutton	Windsor

Visitors

H. W. Soule	Area Director (NE), CSS
Robert Davison	County Agent Leader
Bertha D. Saunders	Vermont State Office

Charles L. Winslow, Chairman
Roy Burroughs, Vice Chairman
Charles B. Doane, Secretary

NCTE: This report is based on conference committee recommendations and includes the changes as adopted by the general conference.

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OTHER CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS

State Committee Nominees

For many years it has been a State policy to ask the county committeemen at the conference to vote for three of their number as nominees for the next vacancy on the State Committee. Due to a tie vote four men were nominated this year rather than three. Their names are listed below, in alphabetical order, without regard to the number of votes each received:

Gaylord N. Baldwin, Chittenden County
Clyde H. Bryant, Bennington County
Edson E. Gifford, Orange County
Norman Lowe, Caledonia County

Conference Banquet

Our guest speaker this year was Paul M. Koger, Administrator, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, USDA. He presented an interesting discussion of the goals the Department hopes to attain through the ACP.

Our toastmaster at this banquet was Thomas F. Macauley, a former State Committee Chairman, who carried out these duties efficiently and well.

Others at the head table included:

Governor Joseph B. Johnson and Mrs. Johnson
H. W. Soule, Director, Northeast Area, CSS, and Mrs. Soule
Elmer Towne, Commissioner of Agriculture, and Mrs. Towne
J. E. Carrigan, Dean, College of Agriculture, and Mrs. Carrigan
Keith Wallace, President, Vermont State Farm Bureau
Mrs. Thomas F. Macauley
Hugh E. Evans, Chairman, State ASC Committee, and Mrs. Evans
B. Frank Myott, State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Myott
Charles L. Winslow, Sr., State ASC Committeeman, and Mrs. Winslow

Brief remarks were made by Governor Johnson, Dean Carrigan, Commissioner Towne, Harris Soule, and Keith Wallace, all of whom commented on the good work the committeemen were doing in Vermont.

Entertainment was provided by The Jerichords, a male quartet, who presented several selections in the style of the old-time barbershop quartets. This group was obtained through the courtesy of Ray Foulds, Extension Forester, who is one of the singers.

There were 102 at the banquet this year.

State and County Committee Alumni

A special table at the banquet was reserved for State and county committee alumni. The following State Committee alumni were present with their wives:

W. F. Sinclair, Johnson
Park H. Newton, Georgia
Thomas F. Macauley, Shoreham

Due to conflicts, none of the county committee alumni were able to attend this year.

Office Managers Receive Recognition

Six county office managers received recognition at the banquet this year. Chairman Evans and Administrative Officer Heald congratulated these people for the fine work they had done for the program in Vermont.

Receiving ten-year award certificates were the following:

Louise Rand, Orange County
Betty Dutton, Windsor County

Twenty-year award certificates were presented to the following:

John DeVito, Bennington County
Dorothy Howard, Chittenden County
Mildred Bell, Essex County
Hazel Hoyt, Lamoille County

In addition to this, these four office managers each received a purse of twenty-five dollars from the county and community committeemen of their respective areas.

State Office Employees Honored

Three members of the State Office staff also received recognition at this banquet. Administrative Officer Heald presented Length-of-Service Certificates from the Department of Agriculture to the following:

Charles B. Doane	10 years
Frances G. Hutchison	20 years
Bertha D. Saunders	20 years

In addition, each of these employees received a bronze pin appropriately marked to denote the years of service.

Incentive Award

Chairman Hugh Evans announced to the group that an incentive award had been approved for State Administrative Officer A. F. Heald as a result of his suggestion that the Washington Office eliminate the sending of unnecessary telegrams to State Offices.

Mr. Evans congratulated Mr. Heald for his initiative in making this suggestion and presented him with a Certificate of Merit and a cash award of twenty-five dollars.

TV Program

At noon on the second day of the conference Hugh Evans, Chairman of the State ASC Committee, and Paul M. Koger, Administrator of the ACPS, took part in the "Across the Fence" program over WCAX-TV, with Lloyd Williams of the Vermont Extension Service who serves as M.C.

During the program the State ASC Conference was discussed and several pictures of the sessions were shown. The method of planning the 1957 Agricultural Conservation Program was also outlined.

Exhibits

In the Roof Garden where the general sessions of the conference were held was an attractive arrangement of various charts and pictures pertaining to the work of the ASC group in Vermont. These exhibits were viewed with interest by those attending the conference.

Photography

We are indebted to William Stone, County Agent of Windsor County, for his kindness and cooperation in taking pictures of the various events. Our conference records are enriched by his excellent photography.

Special Session for County Office Managers

As outlined in the conference program, a special session for county office managers was held on the second afternoon of the conference, with representatives of the State Office staff present to discuss various phases of the work. Based on comments from some of the office managers, this special session was a success.

The material brought out at this meeting is not included herein but will be forwarded to county office managers as a separate report.

